'More evidence needed in deed of gift's authenticity' PAGE 5
Kilili: $414K for historic preservation in NMI. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 109
MONDAY JUNE 4, 2018
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

The United Airlines' B737-800 jet service prepares for its Saipan-Guam flight.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

United makes jet flight

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Airlines flew in its first direct fight from Guam last Friday, June 1—a once-a-day jet service operated directly by United Airlines and not by its usual code-share partner, Cape Air Services.

See UNITED on Page 4

PALACIOS ON CW BILL

'I am happy to see movement'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) remains optimistic about the foreign worker situation in the Commonwealth, as the U.S. House of Representatives prepares to vote tomorrow on the bill that would effectively extend the foreign worker program for another 10 years.

See CW on Page 4

Ex-Beilida staff gets time-served sentence

The lone woman charged with harboring illegal alien workers in the CNMI was sentenced in federal court to 239 days of time served. Xiufang Qi will then be immediately deported.

Qi was ordered to pay a $4,000 fine, which shall be taken from the $10,000 cash bail that she posted and to pay a $100 special assessment fee. The remaining $5,900 will be paid to the law office of Steven P. Pixley, who is the private counsel for Qi.

The $11,000 seized from Qi at the Saipan airport before her arrest will be released and the money will be given as well to the law office of Pixley.

See story on Page 6

FOUR-CAR COLLISION
A collision involving four vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold in front of Saipan Plaza Building in Gualo Rai late Friday afternoon triggered heavy traffic for more than two hours in the area as well as on Beach Road. At least one person suffered minor injuries. Witnesses said the white Hyundai Elantra was heading north on the inner lane when it hit the left front tire of an oil tanker that was also heading north on the outer lane. The Elantra then veered onto the opposite lane, hitting a Kia car on the driver's side and a Toyota Highlander (not in the photo) on the left side. The driver of the Kia had minor injuries. Police are still investigating the cause of the accident.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

IF 5,000 MARINES RELOCATE TO GUAM

'Two-thirds of Tinian will be blanketed with ammo'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If thousands of U.S. Marines are stationed in Guam, the northern two-thirds of Tinian will be blanketed with mortar and artillery bombardment, shattering the island's peace, according to the lawyers for four environmental groups that oppose the U.S. Navy's decision to relocate

See MARINES on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
American Sinopan LLC is looking at helping develop the northern part of Saipan.
PAGE 6

ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte tells a U.N. human rights expert "to go to hell."
PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Tom Cruise is back on the flight line for a sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun."
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Judiciary building's funding to be expected soon

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawmaker expects the funding for the Judiciary to replace its air-conditioning system and mold remediation to be ready soon after bicameral discussions resulted in a compromise.

House conferees chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), said Thursday last week that, after speaking with House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), it was learned that the House official is looking at the chamber acting on Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-164 soon.

Sablan is joined on the conference committee by Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan).

The bicameral conference committee was created after the House rejected Senate amendments, which included watering down the Sugar Dock rebuilding project from $700,000 to $200,000.

During conference committee discussions, Sablan said the committee was able to agree on restoring the $700,000 for the project.

"We adopted a compromise product," said Sablan, adding that Saipan will get $1.7 million, inclusive of the Sugar Dock project funding and funding for a new waste transfer station at the southern side of Saipan.

"Tinian and Rota will get $1.2 million each," said Sablan.

According to the conference committee report on H.B. 20-164, the committee agreed to appropriate $1.2 million for Rota's Pinatang Beach Park renovation; municipal employee salaries; the construction of a concrete wall to secure the Rota water cave area; Rota medical subsistence allowance; Rota interisland medical referral patient and escort stipends; Rota interisland medical referral air transportation costs; and many more.

"I thank the House and Senate conferees for expeditiously reaching a mutual compromise with respect to H.B. 20-164 as the legislation contains critical needs for all senatorial districts," said Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), who is joined by Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) on the bicameral committee.

Santos said she hopes for the immediate adoption of the conference committee report to expedite the bill's enactment.

The $1.2 million for Tinian would fund the improvement and pavement of roads at Marpo Heights II subdivision on Tinian; for full-time employees under the Department of Public Safety on Tinian for the last two quarters of fiscal year 2018; the procurement of a van for the Tinian Office of Aging; the procurement of a vehicle for the Tinian Division of Building Safety; and the procurement of a vehicle for the Tinian Department of Finance.

The conferees agreed not to touch the $7 million appropriation for the Judiciary's mold and air-conditioning problem and the $3 million for the land taking compensation.

They did, however, alter the appropriation to Docomo Pacific, a private telecommunications company that entered an agreement with the CNMI government back in 2016 to allow Tinian and Rota connection to their fiber optic cable.

The end-cost owed Docomo Pacific totaled $650,000 per island.

The conferees found out that a partial payment of $485,000 was appropriated under Public Law 20-58 from Tinian's Solid Waste Management Revolving Fund for that purpose as a portion of the CNMI government's share for the installation and operation of the fiber optic network.

The conferees amended the bill to be in line with the discovery, making their appropriation to Docomo Pacific a total of $815,000 instead of the initial $1.3 million.

Public hearing on lease extension bill

A House committee is looking to hold a public hearing this week on a Senate bill that seeks to extend maximum initial lease terms.

The House Committee on Natural Resources, led by chair Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), said that Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35, which seeks to bump the maximum initial lease term of 25 years to 40 years, would be up for public comments on June 4 in the House chamber on Capital Hill at 5:30pm.

The bill was adopted by the committee in their May 18 committee meeting with a vote of 4-3, with Reps. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) voting against its passage without first holding a public hearing. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

I
AQUA
SAIPAN
Local Staycation Package
Treat that special someone to a relaxing staycation at Aqua Resort Club!
For a limited time, Aqua Resort Club Saipan is offering an exclusive "Local Staycation Package" to all local residents of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam!
Only $150.00
+ 15% Government Tax
Local Staycation Benefits:
*20% Discount Coupon (valid at all F&B outlets throughout your stay)
*40% Discount on all treatments at the ARC Health Spa
*Access to all amenities, including our Family Pool, Diving Pool, Jacuzzi, Fitness Center, and Sauna
Terms & Conditions Apply:
*Offer is valid from 5/18/2018 - 6/30/2018, and is based on current availability
*Price shown above does not included 15% Government Tax
*Guest must present valid Saipan, Tinian, Rota, or Guam identification upon check-in.
*Benefits are only applicable on a per visit basis.
*Above listed benefits are not refundable or transferable to any other benefits.
*In case of unavailability, benefits will not be revised to any other services.
*20% Discount Coupon is not applicable on Special Events or Functions.
Don't Miss Out!
To take advantage of this offer, please call us at (670) 322-1234 to make your reservation today!
AQUA RESORT CLUB

NMSA LOTTERY
RESULTS
Over $62,000 in prizes won in the CNMI.
Get your tickets NOW!
DRAW NUMBER 3847
PACIFIC GOLD
DRAW DATE 06/02/2018
WINNING NUMBERS
19 24 17 7 14 37
$2 MILLION
Next draw JACKPOT
Visit our NEW website:
www.nmsalottery.com
Now available on Android and IOS devices.
DRAW NUMBER 1150
MEGADRAW Jackpots!
DRAW DATE 05/31/2018
WINNING NUMBERS
MEGA #
29 18 9 27 30 8 32 6
$28 MILLION
Next draw JACKPOT

Dandan school promotes 112

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dandan Middle School promoted 112 eighth graders who will go on to the next chapter of their lives last Wednesday, with dozens of community members and a few elected officials present to witness the eighth graders do their final walk as middle school students.

Dandan Middle School principal Lyn Mendiola challenged her former students to continue being resilient, motivated, and goal oriented.

"All the teachers and staff here at DMS are confident that we have instilled life-long lessons that you can truly benefit from when you get to high school," she said.

During the promotion ceremony, awards were given in recognition of all the hard work each student gave for the duration of their stay at DMS.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The promotees of Dandan Middle School poses for a photo during their promotion ceremony last Wednesday at the Dandan Middle School stage area.

Awards given included the Board of Education award, the Commissioner of Education award, and more.

The Board of Education award, usually given to the student with the highest cumulative GPA from 6th to 8th grade, was awarded to Daling Peng. Peng also received the Social Studies, Health, and STEM awards.

The Commissioner of Education award, usually given to the student with the second highest cumulative GPA throughout their middle school years, was awarded to Tiara Cepeda. Cepeda was also awarded Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies subject award.

DALING PENG
Valedictorian

TIARA CEPEDA
Salutatorian

The Leadership award was awarded to Sommer Gomez. Gomez was also given the Leadership Corps subject award.

Other subject awardees were Jelaina Santos (English Language and Video Production), Diana Cao (Math and Computer Literature), Haley Sangalang (Science), and Jayana Socorro (Art).

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 for a 3rd Party Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe
Some conditions may apply

ARMATECH
Generator Rewinding Services and Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

need car insurance?
third party liability
damage to your auto
medical payment
higher limits
typhoon
uninsured motorist
*Subject to terms and conditions
www.pacificains.com
call us at (670) 234-6267
pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

START HERE.
GO ANYWHERE
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE NMC 1981
ENROLL IN NMC'S FALL 2018 SEMESTER
Registration for New, Ongoing, and Readmitted Students
Currently Ongoing until August 17, 2018
FREE Info Session
June 14, 2018 @ NMC Cafe Proa, 5:30pm - 6:30pm
First Day of Classes
August 20, 2018
Math & English Placement Test Dates
May 29 & 30
June 4, 6, 8, 19, 21, 26, 28
July 10, 12, 16, 18, 23, 25, 27, 30
August 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20-23
English Placement tests starts at 10:00am and 1:30 pm.
Math placement starts at 10:00am and 1:30pm.
Call 237-6774 to make an appointment
For more information, log on to www.marianas.edu or contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 237-6768 / 6769 / 6771
www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
www.twitter.com/GoProa
www.instagram.com/NMC.Proa
TJ Manglona
NMC Graduate, 2012 (Business)
Co-Owner, Tribe Marianas

Sablan reminds importance of family

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finding the time to spend with your family was among the three life lessons that Manuel Blas DLG Sablan learned in his time as a Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray.

Sablan, who will be going to Boise State University in Idaho in the fall semester, said making time for your family is the most important thing to do. "It was difficult to share time with friends and family while [I was] attending high school."

"Because we get caught up with our friends, our electronic devices, and other things, we often forget to appreciate our parents and overlook the many sacrifices they make for us."

He reminded his classmates, especially those who will later pursue college in the U.S. mainland, to never forget their families on Saipan. "As we leave them [our families] to further our education, we will put a pause to the daily interaction that we once took for granted."

"Therefore, even when we're abroad, we should always make time for a phone call or a video chat to hear of how they're doing."

Sablan finished at the top of the 2018 SSHS graduating senior class, which held its commencement exercise last Friday afternoon at the school grounds. Jae Yeon Lee is the class salutatorian.

"Time will fly and despite your teenage ego hiding your affection, don't forget to tell the[m] that you love them," Sablan ended.

Lee said that learning has been a struggle for him since elementary, but he persevered and succeeded, with the help of his teachers. "You might think that since I am receiving this award that I must be a talented and smart student…Sadly, this is simply not true… I was exceptionally bad, I felt like giving up so many times."

Manuel Blas DLG Sablan
Valedictorian

Jae Yeon Lee
Salutatorian

"When I started my education, my parents used to think that I was academically challenged. I had trouble writing my own name in Korean and English for one-fourth of my life. During my elementary and middle school years, I occasionally forgot how to spell the word 'the.' I was incapable of writing a proper essay until the end of eighth grade."

Lee, who will further his education at the University of Washington in Seattle, said he had only two options, and one of that was to work to be the person he wants to be. "I chose the latter, so I lived life with the mindset of outdoing myself everyday. Eventually, with time, I started to become more of the person who I want to be.

"Through this, it taught me the beauty of hard work and the importance of people around me. Without my family, I would have given up and without my greatest mentors, my Mom and Dad, I would never realized my potential. I would not been standing here. It was not only my parents but also my mentors [SSHS teachers] who helped [me] greatly to become who I am today."

Audrey Jan Afable, Timothy Rei Leomo Villanueva, Mei Lin, Hee Joo Lee, Katrina Joy Alegre Valencia, Kryzha Mendoza Parungao, Daniel Medrano Montano, Stephen Carino, and Sheena Sunio Aguon joined Sablan and Lee in the school's Top 10 graduating class.

The Top 10 students of Saipan Southern High School's 2018 graduating senior class pose for photos after receiving their awards in last Friday's commencement exercises at the school grounds.

JON PEREZ

UNITED

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune was given the opportunity to witness the first flight between Saipan and Guam via United Airlines since the stoppage of Cape Air flights last Thursday.

At 8:30am on Friday morning, the arrival terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan's International Airport was abuzz as hundreds of individuals aboard the United Airlines jet piled out of their flight and into Saipan.

According to an airport employee, in his many years of working at the airport, he could not remember the last time he has seen so many individuals on one flight when Cape Air was still providing services to Saipan.

Saipan resident Hanzel Batan, who has travelled to Guam several times via Cape Air and was on the first United flight to Saipan last Friday, said the biggest difference she enjoyed was the amount of space she had aboard the United aircraft. Cape Air used to use an ATR 42 plane, a twin-turboprop plane usually used for short-haul flights. The Saipan-Rota flight usually takes a little over an hour.

Compared to Cape Air, Batan said seating was far more comfortable this time but, due to the amount of people, it took quite longer than she expected to board, exit the aircraft, and retrieve her luggage.

When asked if she, overall, enjoyed her flight on United Airlines compared to Cape Air, she said she'd have to go on a few more trips before she could come up with a verdict.

It was also reported by multiple airport employees that the flight from Guam to Saipan has not been able to arrive on time for the past two days, thus delaying the departure of the flight from Saipan to Guam.

It is expected that United Airlines will improve punctuality as the airline is still getting accustomed to its new route.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, United Airlines flights between Saipan from Guam will use a Boeing 737-800 jet aircraft, which has a capacity of 16 seats in United Business, 42 seats in United Economy Plus, and 108 seats in United Economy.

United Airlines currently offers one flight from Guam to Saipan and from Saipan to Guam daily. The new Saipan-Guam routes depart from Guam at 7am and arrive on Saipan at 7:45am and depart from Saipan at 8:45am and arrive in Guam at 9:30am.

A previous statement from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion states that if there is a possibility for more frequent flights between Saipan and Guam via United Airlines, MVA would work on securing it.

"If there are opportunities to increase frequency to more than one daily flight, we are eager to work with them [United Airlines] on that. The future of the airline industry looks bright for the CNMI as we see new players emerging on the scene now," said Concepcion.

CW

From Page 1

In a brief interview with *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend, Palacios said he and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) both understand that the bill extending the foreign worker program, or CW bill, is a bipartisan legislation.

"I am very hopeful that after all the deliberations that the U.S. House would pass it," he said.

In an announcement Saturday, Sablan said the rebooted CW bill, officially called the U.S. Workforce Act, has been scheduled for a vote in the House.

"The schedule has just been published," Sablan said. "So, it is official. The reboot of the U.S. Workforce Act, H.R. 5956, that [House Natural Resources Committee] Chairman [Rob] Bishop and I introduced last week will be up for debate and a vote on Tuesday."

Sablan, who was on Saipan, had to abruptly fly to Washington, D.C. so he could be in the Capitol when the House votes on the bill this week. Once it passes the House, the bill would go to the U.S. Senate for a similar vote. It is expected to sail through the Senate as a previous version of the bill has already been approved by the upper chamber. From there, unless the U.S. Senate inserts some amendments, it goes to the desk of President Trump.

In early May, Palacios wrote to U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), and Sablan's office, urging them to support the much-needed bill.

Bishop introduced a rebooted bill, H.R. 5956, that was cosponsored by the delegate, last week after it was determined that a U.S. Senate amendment to U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's S. 2325—the original CW extension bill—contained a revenue-generating provision.

According to the U.S. Constitution, only the U.S. House may introduce legislation that generates revenue.

The U.S. Senate previously amended S. 2325 to include an anti-fraud fee.

According to an announcement from Sablan's office, H.R. 5956 is up for U.S. House discussion under suspension of the rules tomorrow. He said this method of passing bills is only commonly used for "non-controversial bills."

"A two-thirds majority of the members, present and voting, is required for passage, although often a simple voice vote is used," Sablan said in his statement.

The U.S. Senate, in their discussion of S. 2325, inclusive of the anti-fraud fee amendment, garnered unanimous consent through a voice vote. According to a previous statement from Sablan, H.R. 5956 is already inclusive of the amendments of S. 2325.

"I am, of course, very grateful for the leadership [Bishop] demonstrated to keep us moving forward. Since 2016, his office has been actively involved in developing the policies contained in [S.2325 and HR 5956]," said Sablan in his statement. Bishop is also the chair of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources.

"Chairman Bishop and I are working our respective sides of the aisle so that we have the necessary support of both the Republic and Democratic caucuses," Sablan said, adding that he was also in touch with the U.S Senate for faster movements "when the bill passes the House."

Both H.R. 5956 and S. 2325 seek to reset the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000; provide additional validity to long-time CW workers; and extend the CNMI transitional period, along with programs under it such as the CW program and the E-2C investor program, to fiscal year 2029.

MARINES

From Page 1

5,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

Amphibious landing craft will invade Tinian's beaches, destroying precious corals, said David L. Henkin of Earthjustice and Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, who are counsels for Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, PaganWatch, and Center for Biological Diversity.

"Much of the year, Tinian residents will be cut off from ancestral cultural sites, subsistence gathering and recreational beaches, profoundly degrading the quality of life on the island," said Henkin and King-Hinds in the groups' motion for summary judgment filed in federal court last Friday.

In Pagan, families with ancestral ties to the island will be barred from resettling there, said Henkin and King-Hinds, with the site of the former village overrun by live-fire amphibious assaults and nearly the entire northern part of the island converted into a target area for naval shelling, bombs, rockets, artillery and mortars.

The lawyers said that when the U.S. Navy prepared its final environmental impact statement for the relocation of Marines to Guam in 2010 and the supplemental EIS for the relocation in 2015, the U.S. Navy knew what those Marines would need to conduct in the CNMI and how highly destructive those trainings would be, yet it failed to disclose in either EIS the devastating toll its proposed course of action would inflict on the people of Tinian and Pagan.

Instead, the lawyers said, the Navy claimed that the only live-fire training that Guam-based Marines would conduct in the CNMI was relatively low-impact target practice on Tinian, with weapons firing only bullets.

"Pagan, the people of the CNMI were told, was not suitable for training Marines," the lawyers said.

The groups challenge the Navy's failure to be forthright about the dire consequences for the CNMI of relocating thousands of Marines to Guam, which, according to them (groups), subverted the command of the National Environmental Policy Act to "ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken."

The lawyers said whether this highly destructive training is characterized as a connected action or a cumulative one, the Navy was obliged to take a hard look at its impacts in the same EIS that evaluated the relocation of Marines to Guam.

"The Navy's failure to do so violated NEPA," Henkin and King-Hinds said.

The Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, PaganWatch, and the Center for Biological Diversity are suing the Navy, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, Defense, and Defense Secretary James Mattis over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan.

The groups are suing the defendants for alleged violation of NEPA and the Administrative Procedure Act.

The groups claim the Navy and Defense failed to consider the relocation efforts and potential construction of live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan as "connected actions" in a single EIS.

'More evidence needed in deed of gift's authenticity'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court pro tempore judge David A. Wiseman has ruled that, so far, the evidence leaves too many unanswered questions and ambiguity to determine whether or not the deed of gift of land in connection with Sen. Paul A. Manglona's (Ind-Rota) lawsuit against his siblings is a forgery.

Wiseman said he wants to resolve the ambiguity but feels he has to wait until Paul Manglona's siblings have presented their case.

"The court finds that there is still evidence and testimony to be heard," said the judge in his order Friday denying the defendants' motion for a judgment on partial findings.

That means the bench trial in Paul Manglona's lawsuit shall continue on July 24, 2018.

The defendants in this case are Priscilla M. Torres, Thomas A. Manglona, Vincent A. Manglona, and associate justice John A. Manglona.

The deed of gift purported to transfer Bernadita A. Manglona's interest in the land to Paul Manglona on July 11, 1985. Bernadita Manglona is the deceased mother of the Manglonas.

Paul Manglona is suing his siblings over the 4,181-square-meter property on Upper Capital Hill. The senator asked the court to declare him the owner of the property by virtue of the 1985 deed of gift.

Priscilla Manglona Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, co-administrators of the estate of their late mother, asserted that Paul Manglona does not inherit entirely the disputed land as their mother's signature in the document had been forged.

A bench trial was held last February. At the close of Paul A. Manglona's case, defendants moved for a judgment on partial findings.

A judgment on partial findings permits a judge to make findings of fact adverse to the plaintiff, including credibility determinations after hearing all the evidence, and without the need for the defendants' case.

In his order Friday, Wiseman said after reviewing the testimony and exhibits, the court finds that it is appropriate to make a judgment on partial findings.

Wiseman said the defendants presented compelling testimony from their handwriting expert, Reed C. Hayes, regarding the inconsistencies and differences between the signature of the 1985 deed of gift and the exemplars of Bernadita Manglona's signatures.

The exemplars included a driver's license, U.S. passport, bank signor card, collateral receipt, notarized deeds and leases, copies of checks and corporate filings for a family-held corporation.

Hayes concluded that Bernadita Manglona did not sign the deed of gift based on his analysis of slants, loops, T-crosses, proportions of letters, line quality, and letter spacing.

Wiseman said Paul Manglona's witnesses were inconsistent, unwilling to cooperate, and were at times unresponsive.

Specifically, Wiseman said, Paul Manglona's testimony regarding his father's illness and a November 2010 draft deeds raised more questions than it gave answers.

Wiseman noted that Charles Manglona's testimony about their mother's signatures was inconsistent and Prudencio Manglona Jr.'s testimony was evasive.

However, the judge said, the court recognizes that Charles and Prudencio Manglona Jr. testified against their own potential interest in the land.

Wiseman said defendants have yet to clearly and convincingly prove to the court that the deed of gift is a forgery.

With respect to issues of laches, adverse possession, and slander that the senator raised, Wiseman said he comes to a similar conclusion.

Wiseman said these issues have not been fully litigated and judgment would be premature.

The trial was suspended last February after Wiseman heard attorney Samuel Mok's motion for judgment for partial findings.

Mok, who is counsel for siblings Priscilla A. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, made the motion shortly after attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Paul Manglona, informed the court that they rest their case after the senator completed his testimony.

Wiseman then asked the parties to submit their briefs about the issue.

DPL: Legislature negotiated with IT&E

The Department of Public Lands has called the Legislature out, saying the latter negotiated with a private telecommunications company on the extensions of their lots in As Gonno, Garapan, and Chacha without the department's involvement.

In a letter to House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) dated May 18, 2018, DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo said that in PTI's request for extension, the Legislature negotiated for new terms "directly with the current lessee." PTI is the old name of IT&E.

"It appears that PTI agreed to pay increased rent during the renewal period, consistent with new appraisals of the properties," Teregeyo wrote. She added that the "process established under Commonwealth law" typically set renewals or extensions as an increase in the length of the leases but not as a means to "alter the terms" of the lease.

"If the Legislature disagrees with granting such extension or renewal, the Legislature may reject the extension or renewal and DPL will begin the process of entering into a new lease for the subject property," Teregeyo wrote.

"In this situation, the Legislature decided to negotiate for new terms directly with the current lessee, and without the involvement of DPL," said Teregeyo.

According to documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Igitol, in a letter dated May 29, 2018, denied the claims of negotiating without the involvement of DPL.

"We wish to set the record straight. The Legislature did not negotiate new lease terms with PTI. The Legislature simply requested PTI to provide a new appraisal report. The incorporated higher rental rates are PTI's decision [and was made] without the Legislature's involvement," Igitol wrote to Teregeyo.

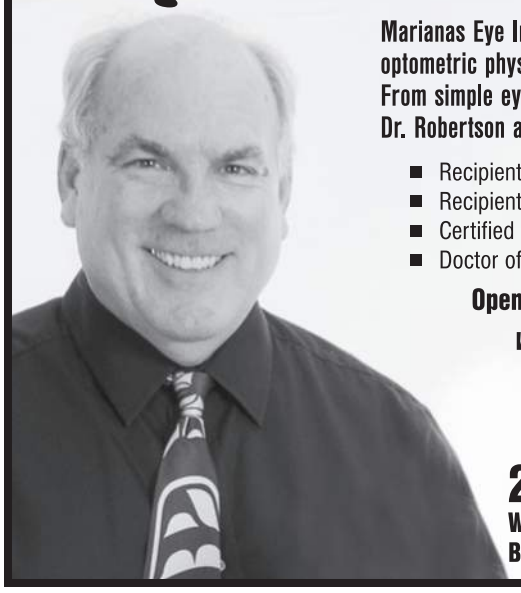
Igitol's committee on May 8, 2018, rejected the proposed lease renewals as proposed by DPL, which included an appraisal report done back in 2015.

The committee's concern was that the value of the properties under PTI has risen substantially since 2015, urging the committee to request for a new appraisal report. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Spend Less
Save More
Switch to LP Gas

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
322-7415/322-8733

"Expert Care....Every Day!"



Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff.
From simple eye problems, to the most complex,
Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.

- Recipient of National Honors for Research in Eye Care
- Recipient of Optometric Recognition Award
- Certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Doctor of Optometry - "Magna Cum Laude"

Open six days a week, Mon – Sat, 8 am – 5 pm.

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

235-9090
Walk-in's welcome.
Beach Road Garapan.

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

As Saipan's leading healthcare provider for the past 45 years, our commitment to CNMI only grows and our commitment to your health? It's never been stronger.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Health Plan Accredited by AAAHC
ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.

TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. upholds the highest standards of excellence for accredited provider networks, patient management expertise, and end-to-end quality control processes. TakeCare offers comprehensive medical and dental insurance to its members in Guam, CNMI and Palau. TakeCare benefit plans provides members with access to the largest health network in Micronesia, Philippines, and the United States. Through it's wellness program, members are eligible for free group fitness classes at Gold's Gym in Saipan.

TakeCare Saipan Office
3rd Floor, TSL Plaza
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950

(670) 235.0994/7
1(877) 484.2411 (Toll Free 24/7)
(670) 234.3742 (Fax)

Business Hours: Mon – Fri 8am–5pm
Sat, Sun and Holidays – Closed

Customer Service (671) 647.3526
Our Island, Your Health Plan℠

TakeCare℠
takecareasia.com
Connect with us

American Sinopan eyes more projects up north

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
A fence that bears the image of the planned hotel development of American Sinopan LLC in Tanapag has been set up as the Hong Kong-based company prepares the construction project.

American Sinopan LLC is looking at helping develop the northern part of Saipan, starting with the Saipan Garden Resort hotel in Tanapag—a project that the company's chief executive officer, Ken Lin, calls the "Gateway to the North."

Lin said the Saipan Garden Resort is just one of several projects that their company plans to develop in the northern part of the island. "Tanapag is what we call the 'Gateway to the North' and we're looking at this as the future of development," he said last week.

"The future development of the hotel will be along the north and this is really the gateway. I'm a developer and, after we finish this [Saipan Garden Resort] project, we're going to look at a different one," Lin told *Saipan Tribune.*

American Sinopan is a subsidiary of First Sinopan International Ltd. that is based in Hong Kong. First Sinopan was incorporated on April 29, 2016, and is also publicly listed in the Hong Kong Stocks Exchange.

He said their projects could be the first hotel project using private land. "We believe this is the first hotel that will be built on a private land. Most of the hotels are on public lands or tied to public lands. [For us] everything is private [land]."

"When we walked around the island, we fell in love with the place. We saw something different and we saw its potential. The whole idea of why we came here is the opportunity of tourism. This is our first overseas project of our company and we take this project very seriously," added Lin.

The hotel, to be located across the Tanapag Middle School, is only one of their planned projects. "Saipan is a beautiful place. We will be searching different places around this island. [The first] one is to place our big hotel."

"There are other plans. We also have a project on Capital Hill, which is the former Heaven II Resort and we want to change it to Capital Hill Resort," said Lin, who added that they are taking their development projects one at a time.

Hiring locally is also a top priority and they held a job fair last Saturday and will hold one again on June 9 at the Tanapag Social Hall in front of the Santa Remedios Parish Church in Tanapag.

"What's very important for a developer is the hiring of local people. This is how you help them become a self-sustaining community," said Lin.

He added that they are not keen in doing a groundbreaking ceremony. "We wanted to have a ceremony after the project is done and the hotel opens. We want to have the respectable elders of the community and to highlight the culture."

Ex-Beilida staff sentenced to 239 days of time served

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of five defendants charged with harboring illegal alien workers was sentenced in federal court on Friday to 239 days of time served.

Xiufang Qi shall then be immediately deported.

Qi was ordered to pay a $4,000 fine, which shall be taken from the $10,000 cash bail that she posted and to pay a $100 special assessment fee.

The remaining $5,900 will be paid to the law office of Steven P. Pixley, who is the private counsel for Qi, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto told the court that the $11,000 seized from Qi at the Saipan airport before her arrest will be released. He said the money will be given as well to the law office of Pixley.

Benedetto had recommended that the defendant be sentenced to 15 months of imprisonment.

Pixley had recommended that his client be sentenced to eight months, with credit for time served.

Pixley had informed the court that Qi has been experiencing severe anxiety and depression as a result of her arrest and detention. Pixley also stated that Qi was not a high level employee of construction company, Nanjing Beilida.

Pixley said the charge flowed from Qi's employment with Beilida, a construction company in Nanjing, China. The illegal Chinese workers were found to have entered the CNMI as tourists and were working at Pacific Imperial International CNMI LLC's ongoing construction of a casino and resort in Garapan.

Pixley said Qi, a 45-year-old Chinese national, lived in the barracks with other workers in Garapan and she did not have a nice office or a nice place to live.

The lawyer said during her employment, Qi possessed a valid CW permit authorizing her to work in the NMI.

Last October, Qi pleaded to count two of the indictment charging her with harboring illegal aliens.

Pixley said the presentence investigation report contains information regarding Yuanyou Hu who died on March 22, 2017, after falling approximately 24 feet from scaffolding at the Imperial Pacific Hotel construction site.

Pixley said while the facts in the presentence investigation report regarding Hu are not contested, Qi was not charged with being connected with Hu's tragic death.

Pixley said Hu was not being supervised by Qi.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, between Feb. 7, 2017 and March 22, 2017 in the District of the NMI, Qi supervised a large number of aliens working at the Best Sunshine casino and resort/hotel construction site.

Among the aliens supervised by Qi were over 100 aliens—including Chinese nationals Chunsheng Zhang, Wei Li, Chengxiang Wang, and Yongbo Sun—who had unlawfully remained in the U.S. after their conditional parole had expired.

Aliens admitted as tourists under the conditional parole program are not legally authorized to work, even during the period of their conditional parole.

Qi was arrested on April 6, 2017, and subsequently charged by indictment with one count of harboring illegal aliens.

Qi and her co-defendant Hongwei Ma are staff of Beilida Overseas. The two other defendants are Beilida Overseas president Hui Lu and Beilida's Wencao Guo.

A separate indictment charged MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao with harboring illegal aliens.

Of the five indicted, only Lu has yet to be arrested.

MCC International was the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific. Beilida was one of the subcontractors of the project.

Guo and Zhao had already pleaded guilty. Guo was sentenced to one year and six months imprisonment, while Zhao was slapped with a six-month prison term.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Personnel Committee will meet from **Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. and continued to Friday, June 8, 2018.** The meeting will be held at the **CUC Saipan Main Office, 3rd Floor, Conference Room 17, Joeten Dandan Building** to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. **Preliminary Matters**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda

II. **Public Comments****

III. **Miscellaneous Matters**
A. Employees' Salary Schedule
B. Employment Contracts
C. Other Personnel Matters

IV. **Executive Session*****
(Consultation with the Legal Counsel)

V. **Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) CNMI Chapter invites you to earn up to 8 hours of CPE credits.

Topics to discuss:
- Various Characteristics of the Fraudster
- Ethics and AICPA Integrity/Independence Update
- Leadership and Effective Teams
- Effective Writing for Accountants and Auditors
- Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz - Fraud in Government

Venue: Hyatt Regency Saipan (Regency Ballroom)
Date: June 8, 2018
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration Fee: $175.00 Per Person Including Lunch

To register please contact Juvilyn Sablan @ 670-322-7337 or email jsablan@deloitte.com or glendacabrera@deloitte.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB18-OPD-094

SUBMISSION DATE: July 05, 2018 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Kilili: $414K for historic preservation in NMI

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reported yesterday that the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation Office is receiving $414,877 to fund its work.

Congress appropriates the money each year from fees collected for drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The annual grants go to all U.S. states and territories, as well as 175 tribal historic preservation offices.

"The Commonwealth's Historic Preservation Office and its staff do important work protecting and preserving historic and archaeological sites in the Marianas—and in educating all of us about the importance of these properties for our cultural heritage," Sablan said. "For that reason, I always support hefty appropriations here in Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund."

For fiscal year 2019 Sablan has requested $88.5 million, an increase, be appropriated from the fund. This is in contrast to the Trump administration's proposal to cut funding sharply. The President has proposed just $32.6 million, a 60-percent cut.

The money does not come from federal taxpayers. Royalties that oil and gas companies pay to the federal government for the right to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf provide the money for the Historic Preservation Fund.

States are required to match the funds they receive a minimum of 40 percent, but the Marianas and most other non-state areas are exempt from the matching requirement.

In this year's funding U.S. non-state areas each received similar amounts: American Samoa, $399,210; Guam, $413,040; Puerto Rico, $666,772; U.S. Virgin Islands, $419,485; and Northern Mariana Islands, $414,877.

Federal funding for the Marianas is slightly greater than the $402,962 that the CNMI Legislature appropriated for the Historic Preservation Office for fiscal year 2018. Of that total $257,890 was for Saipan, $79,478 for Rota, and $65,594 for Tinian.

In 2016, Congress reauthorized the Historic Preservation Fund with U.S. Public Law 114-289. The program runs through 2023. ***(PR)***

4 executives of Guam-based helicopter firm charged

HAGATNA, Guam—Four men have been indicted in federal court for allegedly conspiring to use and lease unsafe aircraft that did not comply with U.S. safety aviation regulations.

John Darrell Walker alias Jon Walker, Marvin R. Reed, Kenneth Rufus Crowe and Phillip Turner Kapp were arrested on May 31, 2018.

A federal grand jury returned a 23-count indictment against the four Hansen Helicopters Inc. employees.

The indictment charges conspiracy to defraud the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board; honest services fraud; wire fraud; money laundering; destruction, alteration or falsification of records; attempted destruction of an aircraft; and false statements.

On March 28, 2018, FAA safety inspector Timothy J. Cislo pleaded guilty in District Court of Guam to three counts of honest services wire fraud involving Hansen.

Cislo issued airworthiness certificates to Hansen without inspecting the helicopters in exchange for an airplane for his personal use.

"This investigation targeted a bribery and fraud scheme between a private business and a public government official who was entrusted with oversight of aviation safety," said FBI special agent in charge Sean Kaul. "When private companies place higher value on profits over public safety, innocent lives are put in danger. The FBI will continue to prioritize corruption investigations and hold accountable all those who betray the public's best interest and trust."

The owner of Hansen Helicopters, John Darrell Walker, resides in Missouri and was arrested there. Reed, Crowe and Kapp were arrested in Harmon, Guam.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, Internal Revenue Service, Homeland Security Investigations, and Guam Customs and Quarantine.

An indictment is merely an accusation, and Walker, Reed, Crowe and Kapp are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. ***(FBI)***

Wind advisory in effect

A small craft advisory for winds is in effect until 6am today, Monday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a developing tropical disturbance to the south of Guam will produce gusty winds across the Marianas. Winds should subside slightly today, falling below hazardous levels.

A small craft advisory for wind means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels., should avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 04, 2018; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp/index.php/division-of-public-health/women-infants-and-children-program

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 13, 2018.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ **Eric Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Spring Into Savings!

- Accepting New Patients
- Hawaii Dental Service, Stay Well & Take Care Insurances Accepted. **Medicaid Patients Welcome!**
- **No Insurance/No Problem! NEW PATIENT Appointment Only $49.00!***
- Ask about our new Spa Services and special promos!

Award-winning dentist Kind and Gentle
Dr. Nelson Krum

Paradise Dental Spa
234-4040
***Exam, Digital X-rays and Cleaning**
(Additional cost for gum disease, chewing or smoking)
Located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai

NMC program to familiarize students with health careers

The Northern Marianas College, Community Development Institute, through the CNMI Area Health Education Center, is sponsoring a health program for youth this summer.

Students who are interested in health careers will be introduced through activities and lessons in nursing, rehabilitation & human services, science and math. The program will also feature presentations on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid, nutrition, and mental health. The overall goal is to familiarize students with health careers in the CNMI.

To qualify for the program, students must be entering into the 11th or 12th grade and must be interested in pursuing health careers. The deadline to enroll in the 2018 Health Summer Program is 4pm, Thursday, July 5, 2018. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The CNMI AHEC will sponsor this program for those who are residents of the CNMI (i.e. U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders). Students must provide a valid, government-issued ID (i.e. birth certificate, passport, driver's license, etc.) for verification upon registration. The 2018 Health Summer Program will run as follows:

- July 16 – July 27 (Monday through Friday) from 8am to 12pm
- July 28 (Saturday), July 30 – Aug. 3 (Monday through Friday) from 8:30am to 4:30pm

To register, students can visit the CNMI AHEC office in Building P at the NMC Saipan campus, or contact Queanna Sablan, CNMI AHEC program manager, by phone at (670) 237-6809 or by email at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

5 experts do autism awareness presentation at JKPL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants show off their certificates of participation after taking part in an autism awareness training at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library helped promote Autism Awareness Month last May 4 by hosting a special program dedicated to educating others about autism.

Five education experts—Jerry Diaz, special education teacher/certified autism programmer at William S. Reyes Elementary School; Rose Diaz, early childhood special education related service provider at WSR Elementary School; Caldrine Santos, special education teacher assistant at WSR Elementary School; Rodrigo Ada, special education teacher assistant at WSR Elementary School; and Valentina Sablan, special education teacher assistant at WSR Elementary School—gave an engaging presentation during which participants participated in their learning.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is grateful that these presenters volunteered their time to further promote Autism Awareness Month. ***(PR)***

Recognition week at the library

Staff at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library were recognized on May 15 for their service to the library and the community.

The library recognized the Division Employees of the Year and the Overall Department Employee of the Year. As well as those employees who had been with the library for five years and over.

The library's overall department awardee is Vincent Donald Palacios Sablan, while the 2018 division awards went to Carrie Camacho, Gerard Borja, Rosalinda Ulloa, and Beth Demapan.

The Length of Service awardees were Marvieluz Syed, Omar Tababa Manacop, Victoria Cabrera, Ray Jr. Deleon Guerrero, Celina C. Foreman, Vincent Sablan, and Erlinda C. Mart Lyn Naputi. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres present the staff of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library with awards during Staff Recognition Week last May 15.

Interior Dept. funds Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrok healthcare programs

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior provided last week a $713,359 grant for the Four Atoll Healthcare program in the Marshall Islands, which serves the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok.

The funding supplements the $721,320 provided in December 2017 and fulfills the program's fiscal year 2018 request of $1.4 million.

"We continue to depend on the U.S. Congress to help us meet these important commitments on behalf of the U.S. Government for the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

Originally provided for under the first Compact of Free Association, these services are now provided through the Office of Insular Affairs' discretionary Technical Assistance Program, Domenech said, and require congressional authorization and appropriation every year.

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has a strong commitment to health concerns in the atolls of the Republic of the Marshall Islands," said OIA Director Nik Pula, "and we are pleased to be able to provide this assistance on behalf of the United States."

Through the Four Atoll Health Care Program, health care services and overall wellness programs are provided for more than 18,000 people from the four nuclear-affected atolls in the Marshall Islands.

The program covers dental services, women's health and cancer screening, diabetes screening and control, eye services in collaboration with Canvasback Missions, immunization coverage, reduction of infant mortality, and surveillance of tuberculosis and leprosy.

The Four Atoll Health Care Program provides basic health services for people from the four atolls in the Marshall Islands impacted by the nuclear weapons testing program that the U.S. Department of Defense carried out in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958. ***(PR)***

DHS adds visas for foreign workers to assist US businesses 'at risk of failing'

On May 25, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen announced that an additional 15,000 H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas will be available for fiscal year 2018.

Nielsen determined there are not sufficient, qualified, U.S. workers available to perform temporary non-agriculture labor to satisfy the needs of American businesses in fiscal year 2018.

This allocation is in addition to the 66,000 visas already issued this year.

Nielsen made this decision after consulting with Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, members of Congress, and business owners.

"The limitations on H-2B visas were originally meant to protect American workers, but when we enter a situation where the program unintentionally harms American businesses it needs to be reformed," said Nielsen. "I call on Congress to pass much needed reforms of the program and to expressly set the number of H-2B visas in statute. We are once again in a situation where Congress has passed the buck and turned a decision over to DHS that would be better situated with Congress, who knows the needs of the program."

The H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker program was designed to serve U.S. businesses unable to find a sufficient number of qualified U.S. workers to perform nonagricultural work of a temporary nature.

Congress set the annual H-2B visa cap at 66,000.

A maximum of 33,000 H-2B visas are available during the first half of the fiscal year, and the remainder, including any unused H-2B visas from the first half of that fiscal year, is available starting April 1 through September 30.

On Feb. 27, 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services determined that it had received sufficient H-2B petitions to meet the full fiscal year 2018 statutory cap of 66,000. In the FY 2018 Omnibus, Congress delegated its authority to the secretary to increase the number of temporary nonagricultural worker visas available to U.S. employers through September 30, just as it did in the FY 2017 Omnibus. In the intervening time since enactment of the FY 2018 Omnibus, the secretary consulted with the secretary of Labor on the issue, in accordance with congressional requirements, and developed this rule. Eligible petitioners for H-2B visas can file Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker. Eligible petitioners must submit a supplemental attestation on Form ETA 9142-B-CAA-2 with their petition.

Details on eligibility and filing requirements are available in the final temporary rule and on the Increase in H-2B Nonimmigrant Visas for FY 2018 webpage.

If members of the public have information that a participating employer may be abusing this program, DHS invites them to submit information to ReportH2BAbuse@uscis.dhs.gov and include information identifying the H-2B petitioning employer and relevant information that leads them to believe that the H-2B petitioning employer is abusing the H-2B program. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Japanese Class kicks off summer library institute

Last May 16, the Teen Summer Library Experience and Adult Summer Library Institute kicked off with a free Introduction to Japanese class taught by Yoko Fujioka-Kern.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library invites the community to attend the remaining classes: this Wednesday, June 6, and Friday, June 8.

In a series of eight classes, participants will learn the basics of Japanese such as basic pronunciation, Japanese history, culture, and simple vocabulary. Because it is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Institute, participants are able to count this class toward completing their reading log. Contact Librarian II Emily Van Weerdhuizen for more information about the free Teen and Adult Summer Library Program at emily.jkpl@gmail.com/670-235-7323. ***(PR)***

Summer hours at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be implementing summer hours from Tuesday, June 12, to Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018. The library hours will be as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5:30pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Call the library at 670-235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla on June 4-7, from 10am to 11pm.

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 9, from 5pm to 10pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Club 200 dinner on Oct. 13

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will hold its annual Club 200 fundraising dinner on Oct. 13. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the NMI chapter here in the Commonwealth. This year's theme is "Rockin' out to 40 years," a rock-and-roll celebration of 40 years of humanitarian work. There will be raffle prizes, dance and costume contests as well as food and beverages. For more information call the Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

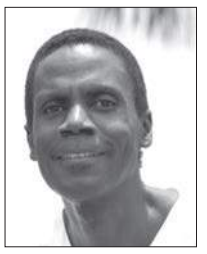
MCS Class of 1968 to have 50th anniversary

Mt. Carmel School's Class of 1968 is celebrating the 50th anniversary today, June 3, starting with a Thanksgiving Mass by Bishop Ryan A. Jimenez, at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 9am. The entire Mount Carmel family is invited to join the Mass. For more information, contact class chair Rita Cabrera Guerrero at ritaguerrero@gmail.com or call 989-0885. ***(PR)***

Saipan writers workshop on June 23

Are you an aspiring author? Do you have a book idea? Have you always wanted to write and publish "The Great Marianas novel," memoir, non-fiction "how-to" manual, or book of poetry or photographs? Looking for tips on how to overcome writer's block? Well you can, and it's easier than you think!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of over 24 books in a variety of genres. His books have been used as texts for university courses, as guides by other coaches, and his ideas have been quoted in books by "Guerrilla Marketing" guru Jay Conrad Levinson, music industry pioneer Chuck D, and other business authors worldwide. He's been featured in *Time* magazine, *Entrepreneur*, *Wall Sreet Journal* and other publications.


Goodridge

Goodridge has written several books about Saipan, including *Jamaican on Saipan*, *Chicken Feathers & Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan*, *Saipan Living*, *Doing Business on Saipan*, *Saipan Now: a photo adventure, There's Something About Saipan*, and *From Bugle Boy to Battle Ship: a Battle of Saipan Veteran's Memoir*. He has also coached, edited, or "ghost-written" other books including *When the Walls Came Down* by Ken Greene (a 9/11 memoir), *Rucksack to Briefcase* by Chief Raymond (a military to civilian-side transition guide), and, with local CHCC nurse Riza Ramos, he's collaborated on *The Boy Who Dreamed to Be With His Parents on Saipan*, *Germ-Stopper Boy* and *Drinking Seawater (a Soudelor Memoir)*, and guided them from idea to Amazon sales!

During this lively, interactive three-hour workshop, Goodridge will share step-by-step instructions on how to start a book project, overcome "writer's block," find the best and worst times to write, edit your book, how to tell when it's ready, publish independently and go from idea to sales.

The workshop will be held on June 23, 2018, from 1pm to 4pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room. Admission is $10 in advance, and $12 at the door. Twenty percent of admission proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event.

Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library. For more information, learn more about Goodridge, and to see some success stories from past workshops, visit www.saipanwriters.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 10.98%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from $0.20109 per kWh to **$0.22317** per kWh effective **June 1, 2018.**

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
Current FAC (Effective 06/01/18)	$ 0.22317	$ 0.22317	$ 0.22317	$ 0.22317
Previous FAC (02/01/18 - 05/31/18)	$ 0.20109	$ 0.20109	$ 0.20109	$ 0.20109

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Fixture Charge: See below.
Energy Charge: The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Total Streetlight Charge: The Total Streetlight Charge is the sum of the applicable Fixture Charge and the applicable Energy Charge.

			Monthly Charge				
FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH	FIXTURE CHARGE	RES - ENERGY CHARGE	**RES - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**	COM - ENERGY CHARGE	**COM - TOTAL S.LIGHT CHARGE**
1 Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67	$ 24.66	**$ 36.33**	$ 33.95	**$ 45.62**
2 Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33	$ 17.34	**$ 25.67**	$ 23.87	**$ 32.20**
3 LED	140	57	$ 10.83	$ 13.92	**$ 24.75**	$ 19.16	**$ 29.99**
			(a)	(b)	(a+b)	(c)	(a+c)

RES = Residential **COM = Commercial** **S.LIGHT = Streetlight**

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

June 2018

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 109

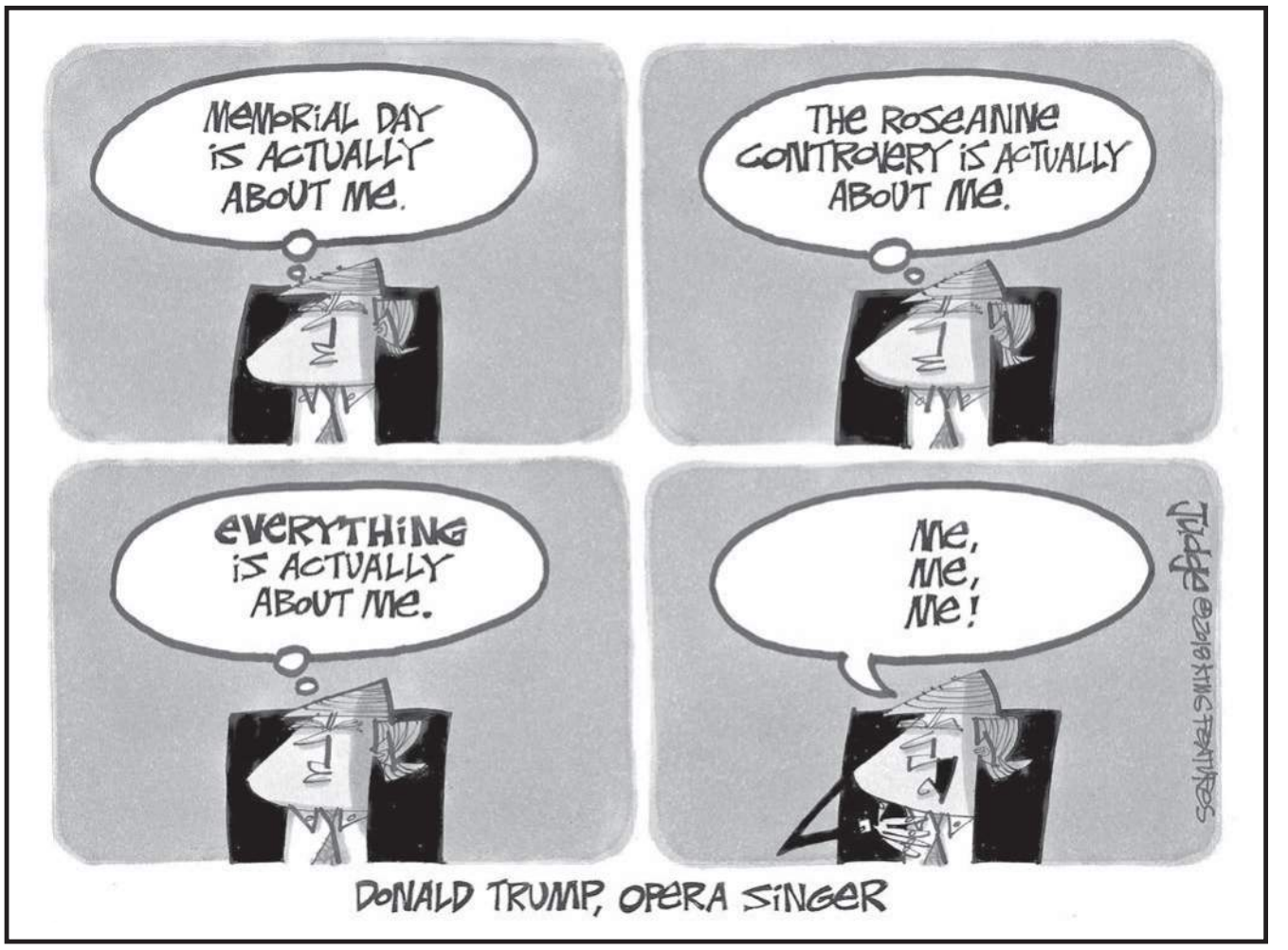
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


MEMORIAL DAY IS ACTUALLY ABOUT ME.
THE ROSEANNE CONTROVERY IS ACTUALLY ABOUT ME.
EVERYTHING IS ACTUALLY ABOUT ME.
ME, ME, ME!
DONALD TRUMP, OPERA SINGER

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The big hysteria

One of the rules of our politics is that it's permissible to accuse the Trump administration of anything, and the claim that it "lost" 1,475 migrant children fits the bill.

It has lit up social media and made the debate over a new Trump policy of "zero tolerance" at the border even more hysterical than it would be otherwise.

The 1,475 factoid makes it sound as though the Trump administration had these children in its custody and then one day couldn't find them. Instead, Health and Human Services had placed them, along with thousands of others who showed up at the border as unaccompanied children, with sponsors in the United States, usually parents or close relatives.

HHS recently added 30-day follow-up phone calls. At the end of last year, HHS called 7,635 sponsors and couldn't reach 1,475 of them. Since many of the sponsors are illegal immigrants themselves who don't want to be in contact with authorities, this isn't surprising. But this misleading story has been spun into a tale of shocking Trump administration callousness and used as a hammer against his border policy.

Prior to 2011, almost all illegal aliens at the border were single adult males, overwhelmingly from Mexico. Now, 40 percent of illegal aliens at the border are families and children, and almost half from Central America. This presents challenges we haven't faced before, made all the worse by gaping loopholes in the law.

The past policy was to allow adults traveling with children into the country. Hoping to stem the flow—which briefly diminished after his election, before increasing again—Trump now wants to prosecute all adults. This necessitates, at least briefly, the separation of adults and children.

The U.S. Marshalls take custody of the adults, while the children are held by HHS. The prosecution of the adults for illegal entry usually happens quickly. Then, if the adult wants to return home, they are reunited with their child and sent back together.

Where it gets more complicated is if a migrant claims asylum. The Trump administration wants to hold migrants pending adjudication of their cases; if they are released, there is a good chance they will abscond. But even if the cases are handled quickly—i.e., in a couple of months—the government has to release the children sooner thanks to a 20-year-old consent decree and associated legal rulings.

It's just one of the distortions that makes a rational policy at the border impossible.

Trump is right to want to get a handle on the border. According to the Justice Department, over the past two and half years, more than 250,000 migrants who came here as unaccompanied children or part of a family group have

See HYSTERIA on Next Page

Why gas prices are pumped up—and how we can lower them

By NICOLAS LORIS
The Heritage Foundation

Nicolas Loris is The Heritage Foundation's Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow, specializing in energy, environmental and regulatory policy analysis.

Summer driving season is here, and motorists nationwide are seeing an unwelcome sign (literally): higher gas prices. As a result, politicians are playing the blame game, pointing the finger at the Trump administration for higher pain at the pump.

But what's really going on, and is there anything policymakers can do?

The law of supply and demand explains a lot. Because oil is a globally traded commodity, different factors around the world affect the supply of and demand for oil, which in turn affects the price Americans pay at the pump.

Demand is certainly up. According to the International Energy Agency, global oil demand increased 1.6 percent in 2017. That may not sound like a whole lot, but it's significantly higher than the average increase of 1 percent over a decade.

It's worth noting, by the way, that higher gas prices often result from a healthier economy. In the United States and around the world, stronger growth means businesses and families are using more oil.

On the supply side, OPEC and its friends decided to cut back production at the end of 2016 and throughout 2017, in an effort to increase prices. With 2016 output levels as the baseline, 21 countries have been reducing production by a total of nearly 1.8 million barrels per day.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia exceeded their production cuts, while others produced more oil than they said they would. The collapse of the Venezuelan and Angolan economies resulted in substantial decreases in oil production, so OPEC is easily meeting its reduction targets.

OPEC's strategy is unlikely to be sustainable, though. The cartel has never been able to restrict supplies and control oil prices for very long, because oil comes from a diverse set of suppliers (both OPEC and non-OPEC), many of whom have a strong incentive to cheat and boost oil production above their quotas.

Even when oil prices were lower, some OPEC nations and OPEC allies failed to meet their reduction targets. If prices continue to rise, and production continues to decline in Venezuela and Angola, the incentive to cheat, or to reverse the agreement, only grows stronger. In fact, Reuters recently reported that OPEC could agree to increase its production levels at its next official meeting in June.

Another good sign: the extraordinary technological advancements now being used to extract oil in the United States is making OPEC's strategy even more ineffective over the long term. As OPEC and its allies decided to cut production in 2017, American energy produced cranked out more supply.

The Energy Information Administration reported that U.S. crude production surpassed 9.3 million barrels per day in 2017, a 5 percent increase over 2016 levels. In November 2017, the U.S. crude oil supplies surpassed 10 million barrels per day, breaking a record high from nearly 50 years ago.

The U.S. is on pace to overtake Saudi Arabia and Russia as the world's largest oil producer. In fact, the latest projection from the EIA estimates that U.S. production could reach nearly 12 million barrels per day in 2019. America's energy revolution is a remarkable story that demonstrates the benefits of human ingenuity and entrepreneurial passion.

Nevertheless, policymakers are calling the administration to "do something" to alleviate drivers' agony every time they fill up their tank. But higher prices driven by market forces are not a compelling reason for the federal government to intervene in energy markets.

Prices, after all, communicate information to energy producers and to energy users. Higher prices for oil incentivize companies to extract and supply more.

Moreover, higher prices also incentivize entrepreneurs to invest in innovative alternatives to oil, whether batteries, natural gas vehicles, or biofuels. Drivers will examine their consumption options as well, whether carpooling, finding alternative modes of transportation, or, over time, purchasing a more fuel-efficient vehicle.

Instead, Congress and the Trump administration policymakers should eliminate the government-imposed barriers and policies that artificially raise prices.

For instance, streamlining the permitting process for oil extraction and transportation will get more oil to the market. Transitioning environmental protection to the states will allow more efficient and accountable management. Government-imposed mandates that determine which fuel drivers must use and which ships can carry oil from coast to coast translate to higher prices at the pump and only serve to protect special interests.

Washington must refrain from non-solutions that meddle in energy markets and instead fix the distortions caused by the predecessors.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Name-calling other women makes Samantha Bee the other C-word: Classless

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

I used to watch Samantha Bee because her manic sort of mean-girl humor appealed to me. (I'm a manic sort of mean girl myself.) While I don't share her politics, I like her delivery and her sass, and the fact that she's Canadian is even more delightful, because who knew Canadians were funny? (Please don't email me about all the great Canadian comics. That was my mean-girl humor.)

But after this week's show, I won't be watching her ever again. It's my own private boycott, and won't involve the cancellation of major contracts and the loss of hundreds of jobs on an ABC sitcom, or diversity training at a franchise of coffee shops. But it will make me feel a little less dirty.

This week, Bee made a major bumble and called Ivanka Trump a "feckless c–" because Trump had the audacity to post an Instagram photo of herself with her youngest baby, Theodore, on Memorial Day weekend. Bee was upset that Ivanka could seem so "tone deaf" about loving her child when her dad's administration was apparently separating children from their parents at the border.

Now, you can disagree with President Trump's immigration policy. I do. I not only disagree, I am actively fighting along with other immigration lawyers to end it. While I understand the philosophy behind it, it is simply base inhumanity to separate children from adults and put them into foster care and detention centers. Those who, like me, are virulently opposed to abortion and call themselves pro-life would be hypocrites if they said they supported this draconian and cruel measure,

But what you should not do is use your disagreement with government policy to slander a loving young mother who has the audacity to show how much she loves her child on social media.

Samantha Bee is a darling of the evolved liberal set, the ones who talk about how much they care about human rights.

But that doesn't give her, or any other progressive, carte blanche to slander Ivanka Trump.

I've been called the "See You Next Tuesday" word online and in emails, and while I don't really get upset anymore, it is always revelatory how little respect so-called progressives have for the women who disagree with them. And poor Ivanka didn't even say anything disagreeable. She just posted a lovely photo of her child, and the gates of hell opened up on social media.

This brings me to Roseanne Barr, whose ABC show was canceled after the controversial actress posted a racist tweet. The difference between Bee and Barr? Barr was a flagship star on a big network. ABC was right to fire her, although I will miss the show and feel very sorry that many people who worked with her will now be unemployed. There is no excuse for what she said, Ambien or not.

Bee, on the other hand, is on a late-night cable show, where you can say pretty much whatever you want—within reason. You should not be able to say the things that Bee said and get a pass for being a feminist. No woman who attacks another mother the way that Bee did is a true feminist. If you cannot show respect to people with whom you disagree, and if you can't hold your fire when a young mother displays genuine affection for her child, you are the other c-word: Classless.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Driving problems

The driving problems we are having with tourists on Saipan is only going to grow with the growth of our tourism industry. I want to thank Chris and the Marianas Visitors Authority for trying to address the problem even though it is not MVA's responsibility. MVA has asked the car rental places to do more in educating drivers but what is needed is legislation with teeth to make sure all foreign drivers know about the laws and expectation of driving in the CNMI. Many of these drivers have no knowledge about our traffic laws beyond a stoplight, stop sign, and speed limit signs and it is only going to get more dangerous on the streets as more tourists come.

I would like to offer a simple permanent solution for the driving problems we are having with tourists:

The municipal council and mayor on Saipan should create an ordinance requiring anyone with a foreign driver's license who wants to rent a car to pass a clearance questionnaire. It will not be a test as tourists and tour agents will have access to all the questions for tourists to study and find out the answer before they even get to Saipan.

The ordinance should require a "clearance post" inside the luggage pick-up area at the airport and one in Garapan where tourists can pay a "small fee to cover government cost" and submit their questionnaire that has been filled out for approval or rejection. Tourists will have access to the questionnaire and our expectations online prior to travel and can submit their clearance questionnaire when they land for it to be stamped approved so they can rent a car. This will not apply to U.S. citizens with a U.S. driver's license.

Car rental agents will be required to attach the original copy of the approved clearance questionnaire to all rental application as proof that the person has studied and understands our laws and expectation for driving on Saipan. Should a foreign driver be stopped while driving in the CNMI and they don't have a copy of their clearance with the rental agreement, the car rental agent and the tourist will both get a citation and the car will be towed. Those who violate traffic laws will be ticketed and required to pay the ticket before leaving Saipan as their name will be placed on the computer system to hold them at the airport prior to leaving forcing them to pay or stay. Tourist can pay at the court clerk to clear their name to prevent a "hold" at the airport.

I am hopeful that this will help Saipan in solving what is getting to be a nemesis to the safety on our roads that can be detrimental and even deadly for other drivers and pedestrians.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

HYSTERIA

From Page 10

been released into the country.

But separating parents and children at the border is a significant downside of the Trump policy. Congress can help by fixing the consent decree that makes it impossible to detain kids, even if they are with their parents, and by spending more on detention space. There's no reason we can't handle these cases quickly and humanely, except for our insanely self-sabotaging immigration system.

The power of words

A few weeks ago, I read in your publication introducing Mr. Don Farrell's book about World War ll history. While I do not wish to argue anything about the contents of his book, I do have some a question about an important matter that may be of necessity and significance his audiences.

No one would argue that the planned bombing of the targeted cities in Japan ended the war. I would not argue that. It happened—the collective death of men, women, and children numbering at least 150,000 or more.

What would it be today if the planned bombings were stayed or deferred by the American forces? The Nazis paid the price for all the atrocities committed, but the imperial Japanese government could have avoided much destruction if it had heeded the Potsdam Declaration.

This brings me to my point: Was the Potsdam Declaration an important matter had Japan surrendered unconditionally or accepted the consequences of what followed during the days after it received the Potsdam Declaration from the Allied Forces?

The end of World War ll could have had a different outcome had the Imperial Army of Japan surrendered to the terms of the Potsdam Declaration on July 26, 1945. Japan would have softened the blow on its people and land. The Japanese Cabinet favored settlement, and the politics of the day seemed to overcome clarity about facing the eventual reality and knowing what specific consequences coming if the offer for surrender was treated lightly.

The Imperial Cabinet issued a statement explaining their position by treating the peace offer as a *mokusatsu*, which either means: "We are considering it" or "We are ignoring it." It turned out that the English press interpreted Japan's position as a "we are ignoring" the Potsdam Declaration altogether. After the war, historians learned that the Japanese people interpreted *mokusatsu* to mean "We are considering it." The idle time before Aug. 6, 1945, and almost two weeks after the Potsdam Declaration date, Japan realized the carnage of the atomic bomb.

The misunderstanding or misinterpretation of a word became history. Should Mr. Farrell include this human error for the enlightenment of audiences in his book? This piece of significant historical information could have been inserted into the book, and the war could have ended differently. It was about rushing to conclusion when words are used outside its conventional meaning and stereotype. Such erroneous perspective over a word affects receivers and givers of any spoken language. It could have been a different World War ll ending.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The leader he was

As humans we are fallible, so that makes us all the same. Right? Not quite so. There are certain personal traits that makes each one of us different from the other person. We see these differences play out very often in our leaders by the way they behave and the motivation behind their decisions.

As I take a retrospective review of our elected leaders, I am transfixed by the distinct differences in how these leaders consume and exercise their governing powers.

I am particularly fascinated by former and the late governor Pete "Teno" P. Tenorio, not necessarily on the basis of political ideology, but more fundamentally by his humanity. You see, governor "Teno" personalizes his leadership because he was a man and a leader not afraid to let his "guard down." So, what is the value of letting down your guard? I believe it is the first step to friendship and governor "Teno" personifies the value of friendship and empathy.

Political correctness was not an expression that categorizes governor Teno's administration. In my personal view, it was the institutionalization of prudential statesmanship, wisdom, and humility which conveys peaceful intent.

I will always remember governor "Teno" the prudent public leader and the power of his practical reasons. Temperance was his naturally displayed virtue and people were attractively mesmerized by the genuine expression of sympathy either over their social or economic dispositions. He accepted you for who you are.

Rest in peace, governor. You are now in the care of a loving God.

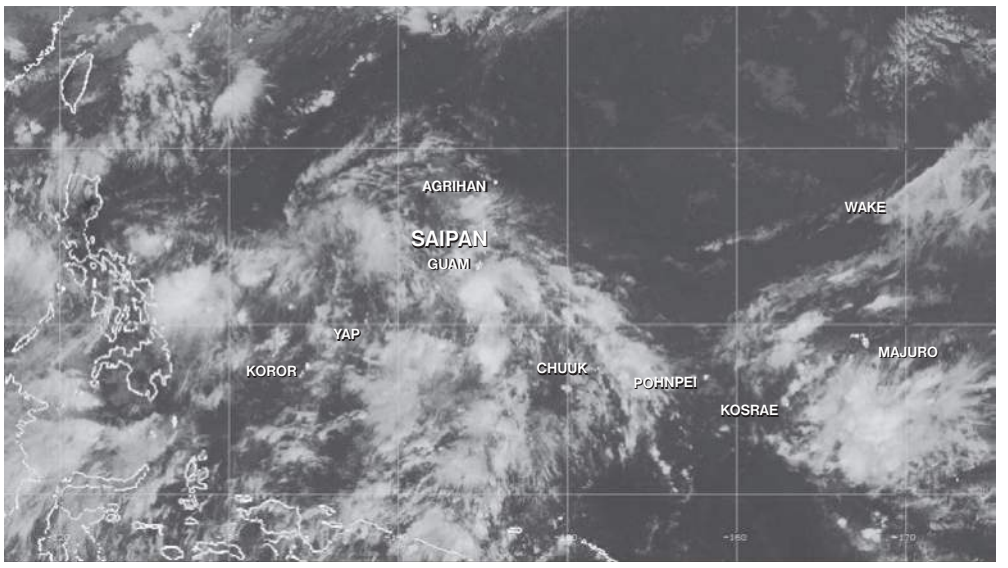
Daniel O. Quitugua
Killeen, Texas

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers within the Marianas waters and occasional to frequent showers south of Guam waters. The increasing showers south of Guam waters are associated with a tropical disturbance south-southeast of Guam which currently has a low chance of developing into a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours. The VAD wind profile indicates east-southeast winds of 18 to 28 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air, which then turn toward the east through 30 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed of an east trade-wind swell and east-northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	100° / 70°
Hong Kong	Rain	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Windy	84° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 77°
New York	Showers	57° / 54°
Osaka	Showers	81° / 72°
Paris	Thunderstorm	79° / 59°
Busan	Showers	73° / 66°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 65°
San Francisco	Windy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	73° / 62°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
5:58 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21
10:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
5:34 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:445 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:09 AM	11:11 PM
Tuesday	-	10:58 AM	11:53 PM
Wednesday	-	11:47 AM	-
Thursday	12:33 AM	12:36 PM	-
Friday	1:13 AM	1:26 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

A decade of Roast, Red and Rendezvous

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan provided the classy setting, Triple J Wholesale brought the mouthwatering Certified Angus Beef, while Pacific Trading Co. came bringing bottles of wine.

A decade of partnership between the three companies came together last Friday for the annual Red, Roast and Rendezvous at the Island Sundowner—a night of great food and good wine in a beach-side setting.

"The whole concept was about kicking back with great food, great drink, your feet in the sand and enjoying the night," said Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Food & Beverage director.

He said the event responds to the question that popped up in his mind when he first came to Saipan: "Are sit-down dinners what people really want to do? Do they really want to put on jackets and long pants and go to a sit-down dinner and enjoy six-course meal or do they want great food and drinks in an environment that they are accustomed to?"

"I think…it's all about being around friends, family and enjoying the food, drink, conversations and we can do that through the Island Sundowner," he added.

Gabrielle Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan's executive chef, said the annual Red, Roast and Rendezvous event has over the years always featured the best dishes.

"We are celebrating a decade of good food, fine wine, and beautiful sunsets so it [is[special. The food the will be served are the best ones…like the traditional French cuisine beef Wellington, we have a local station featuring chicken *kelaguen* and we have Japanese, Italian dishes that features the different specialties of our chefs," he added.

Early birds and Island Sundowner regulars look at the food selection at the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Jay Santos of Triple J Wholesale poses with friends at the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Pacific Training Co. general manager Charles V. Cepeda.

From left, Mike Taylor, Danny Atwood, Kirk Johns, and Eduardo O. Flores enjoy their first Island Sundowner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday. PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA

A group of friends enjoy the Island Sundowner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

According Jay Santos of Triple J, a decade of partnership among the three companies has been remarkably swift.

"We've been fortunate that our friends at the Hyatt and PTC are kind enough for us to throw great parties here and showcase good wines. This year we…went all-out," he said. "This is our last year and only because we've done it for the last 10 years and it's time to come up with new ideas for promotions."

He loves the idea, however, of coming up with an event that will still feature Angus beef and red wine "because there are a lot of people on island that love really good food and wine and we want to keep that going. …This has always been an event for people to just enjoy good meat and wine and very affordable."

The selection of wines served were from the Murphy Goode Winery, said Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles V. Cepeda.

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan chef Sho Shiminoto of Miyako, guest chef and owner of "Ginger and Smoke" Gerald Boyer, executive sous chef Zenn Tomokane, chef Shawn Lee of Kili Cafe and Terrace, and Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabrielle Colombo

From left, Dung Tenorio of Joeten Motors, Craig Tenorio of Joeten, Mike T. Demapan of Saipan Stevedore, Somia T. Quan of Joeten, and Liza David of Pacific Trading Co.

A group of friends enjoy the Island Sundowner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

A group of friends and family enjoy the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

A froup of friends enjoy the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Triple J Wholesale officials and friends enjoy the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

"We started with Kendell Jackson family throughout the years and Murphy Goode is one of the Kendell Jackson family… Before the start of every year, the three companies meet and sit down with the chef and talk about which wine will work and which one we want to do."

"We are going to continue to partner up with Hyatt and probably change the theme a little and include other products that PTC carry, which includes spirits. For the past 10 years, we try to make wine an everyday social event because wine is not just about luxury. We are really looking at diversifying the wine business here on Saipan because we got the beach, climate and weather that is perfect for barbecues and that is the kind of what we do with the Sundowner because wine goes great with everything and any kind of food," he added.

The 10th year of Red, Roast and Rendezvous was well-received, said Hyatt Regency Saipan events assistant manager Kovanni Cabrera. "We have prepared for this event with a hundred seats for our guests and we also have standing cocktail tables for whoever who wants to lounge, relax and enjoy a glass of wine."

The band plays bossa nova hits to complement the theme of the night at the Island Sundowner held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Barbecue short ribs served at the Island Sundowner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Grabrielle Colombo prepares a traditional French cuisine at the Island Sundowner held Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday.

Hyatt Regency Saipan employees at the Japanese dish section.

Business

US singled out by G7 allies over steel and aluminum tariffs

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)—The United States was singled out by some of its closest allies Saturday over the imposition of tariffs that they warn will undermine open trade and weaken confidence in the global economy.

The dispute over U.S. President Donald Trump's new levies on steel and aluminum imports is driving a wedge in the G7 group of industrial nations.

Following Saturday's conclusion of a three-day meeting of G7 finance ministers, Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau issued a summary saying the other six members want Trump to hear their message of "concern and disappointment" over the U.S. trade actions.

Allies including Canada and the European Union are threatening retaliatory tariffs.

The G7 ministers urged U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to deliver their message before leaders of the group's member countries meet next week in Quebec.

Ministers urged the U.S. to abandon the tariffs ahead of the leaders' summit before the move causes deeper divisions within the G7.

AP

A staffer tries to secure the flags blowing in the wind during a meeting for the G7 Finance and Central Bank Governors in Whistler, British Columbia, Thursday, May 31, 2018

"The international community is faced with significant economic and security issues, which are best addressed through a united front from G7 countries," said the summary, which was agreed to by the attending ministers.

"Members continue to make progress on behalf of our citizens, but recognize that this collaboration and cooperation has been put at risk by trade actions against other members," it added.

Bruno Le Maire, France's finance and economy minister, was blunt in his assessment of the Whistler meeting, where ministers confronted Mnuchin.

"It has been a tense and tough G7—I would say it's been far more a G6 plus one than a G7," said Le Maire, who called the tariffs unjustified.

"We regret that our common work together at the level of the G7 has been put at risk by the decisions taken by the American administration on trade and on tariffs," he said.

Mnuchin disagreed with Le Maire.

"I think there was a comment out there that (this was) the G6 plus one. It was not. ... We believe in the G7, it's an important group," Mnuchin said at his own news conference. "I'm sure that the president looks forward to coming to Canada and meeting all the other leaders with many, many important issues going on throughout the world."

Morneau, who presided at the ministerial meeting in Whistler, said even though the group found common ground on many subjects, G7 members are now forced to do whatever they can to persuade Trump to withdraw the tariffs.

"They actually are destructive. And that's consistently held across the six countries that expressed their point of view to Secretary Mnuchin," Morneau told reporters.

The U.S. president has said the tariffs are needed to protect U.S. steel and aluminum industries vital to the nation's security.

Morneau has called the tariffs "absurd," saying Canadian metal sales are no security risk to the U.S. He warns the measures will destroy jobs on both sides of the border.

Le Maire said it is up to the U.S. to take action to rebuild confidence among G7 members and to avoid any escalation during the leaders' summit next week.

That meeting, which will be hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, will be Trump's first visit to Canada as president.

US employers keep on hiring despite growing trade concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defying fears of a global trade war, U.S. businesses have made it abundantly clear that they see no reason to stop hiring.

Employers added a robust 233,000 jobs in May, up from 159,000 in April, the government said Friday, and helped drive the nation's unemployment rate to an 18-year low of 3.8 percent.

In the midst of all that hiring, the Trump administration has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum from Europe, Mexico and Canada. The White House is also threatening China with separate duties. And Europe, Mexico, Canada and China have vowed to hit back at U.S. goods.

Yet so far, the trade disputes have done nothing to knock the nearly 9-year-old economic expansion—the second-longest on record—off track. Hiring has actually picked up this year compared with 2017.

"The May jobs report revealed impressive strength and breadth in U.S. job creation that blew away most economists' expectations," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West.

Some economists do remain concerned that the Trump administration's aggressive actions on trade could eventually hamper growth. The direct impact of the tariffs on the nearly $20 billion U.S. economy will likely be scant. But persistent uncertainty about which trading partners might be hit next—and which U.S. products might be penalized in retaliatory moves—could disrupt some companies' expansion plans.

U.S. employers added 223,000 jobs in May helping lower the unemployment rate to the lowest point since 1969. In a protocol-defying step President Trump hinted at the good report in a morning tweet. (June 1)

"Risks are brewing ... with the latest round of tariffs on aluminum and steel," said Joseph Song, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "However, the concerns so far remain on the periphery."

Should the trade fights worsen, they would most likely affect some of the same industries that have ramped up hiring and lifted the economy. Manufacturers, for example, have added 259,000 jobs in the past year, a 2.1 percent increase. That's the biggest percentage gain in factory jobs since 1995.

Exports have been a big driver of that hiring. In 2017, simultaneous growth in Europe, China, Japan, and some developing countries were a key reason that factory output rose. Now, European officials are threatening to raise tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles and on Levi's jeans.

Roughly an hour before the May employment data was released Friday morning, President Donald Trump appeared to hint on Twitter that a strong jobs report was coming.

"Looking forward to seeing the employment numbers at 8:30 this morning," he tweeted.

The president is normally briefed on the monthly jobs report the day before it is released, and he and other administration officials are not supposed to comment on it beforehand.

Larry Kudlow, the president's top economic adviser, downplayed Trump's tweet.

"He didn't give any numbers," Kudlow said. "No one revealed the numbers to the public."

Investors cheered the jobs data. The Dow Jones industrial average finished up 219 points. Other stock indexes also rose.

The healthy employment figures make it more likely that the Federal Reserve will keep raising interest rates this year—two and possibly three more times, after doing so in March.

US, China discuss American exports in bid to ease trade spat

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. and Chinese officials have discussed specific American export items Beijing might buy as part of its pledge to narrow its trade surplus with the United States, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Sunday as the two sides began a new round of talks in Beijing aimed at settling a simmering trade dispute.

Ross gave no details at the start of his meeting with China's top economic official, Vice Premier Liu He, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. But Chinese envoys promised after the last high-level meeting in Washington in mid-May to buy more American farm goods and energy products.

President Donald Trump is pressing Beijing to narrow its politically volatile surplus in trade in goods with the United States, which reached a record $375.2 billion last year. He's threatening to hike duties on up to $150 billion of Chinese imports.

"Our meetings so far have been friendly and frank, and covered some useful topics about specific export items," Ross said.

Ross was accompanied by agricultural, treasury and trade officials. Liu's delegation included China's central bank governor and commerce minister.

There was no indication whether the talks also would take up American complaints that Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies. The White House renewed a threat this week to hike duties on $50 billion of Chinese technology-related goods over that dispute.

Private sector analysts say that while Beijing is willing to compromise on its trade surplus, it will resist changes that might threaten plans to transform China into a global technology competitor.

Ross had a working dinner Saturday evening with Liu, also at the same guesthouse in Beijing.

China has promised to "significantly increase" purchases of farm goods, energy and other products and services. Still, Beijing resisted pressure to commit to a specific target of narrowing its annual surplus with the United States by $200 billion.

Following Beijing's announcement, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the dispute was "on hold." But the truce appeared to end with last week's announcement Washington was going ahead with tariff hikes on technology goods and also would impose curbs on Chinese investment and purchases of U.S. high-tech exports.

The move reflects growing American concern about China's status as a potential tech competitor and complaints Beijing improperly subsidizes its fledgling industries and shields them from competition.

Foreign governments and businesses cite strategic plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led efforts to create Chinese industry leaders in areas from robots to electric cars to computer chips.

Trump also has threatened to raise tariffs on an additional $100 billion of Chinese goods, but gave no indication this week whether that would go ahead.

Nation

Trump, NKorea's Kim back on for summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a week of hard-nosed negotiation, diplomatic gamesmanship and no shortage of theatrics, President Donald Trump has announced that the historic nuclear-weapons summit he had canceled with North Korea's Kim Jong Un is back on.

The June 12 meeting in Singapore, the first between heads of the technically still-warring nations, is meant to begin the process of ending North Korea's nuclear program, and Trump said he believes Kim is committed to that goal. The announcement puts back on track a high-risk summit that could be a legacy-defining moment for the American leader, who has matched his unconventional deal-making style with the mercurial Kim government.

Despite recently envisioning Nobel laurels, Trump worked on Friday to lower expectations for a quick breakthrough.

"We're going to deal, and we're going to really start a process," Trump said. He spoke from the South Lawn of the White House after seeing off a senior Kim deputy who spent more than an hour with him in the Oval Office. Much had been made of a letter his visitor was bringing from the North Korean leader, but Trump's comments left it unclear when he had even managed to take a look at it.

President Donald Trump announced Friday that his historic summit with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un is now back on for June 12 in Singapore. Trump made the announcement after an hour-long meeting with a top North Korean official. (June 1)

AP

President Donald Trump shakes hands with Kim Yong Chol, former North Korean military intelligence chief and one of leader Kim Jong Un's closest aides, as after their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Friday, June 1, 2018.

The president said it was likely that more than a single meeting would be necessary to bring about his goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. He said, "I think you're going to have a very positive result in the end, not from one meeting."

In the latest sign of hostility cooling down but hopes kept in check, Trump said he had unilaterally put a hold on hundreds of new sanctions against the North, without Kim's government even asking. "I'm not going to put them on until such time as the talks break down," he said.

"I don't even want to use the term 'maximum pressure' anymore," Trump added, referencing his preferred term for the punishing U.S. economic sanctions imposed on North Korea in response to its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. But he said he would not remove current sanctions until the North took steps to denuclearize.

Trump warmly greeted Kim Yong Chol, the vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee, in the Oval Office, where a brief encounter meant for the hand delivery of a personal letter from Kim Jong Un became a longer discussion of areas of disagreement between the two countries.

After the meeting, Trump posed for photos with Kim Yong Chol outside the Oval Office, and they talked amiably at Kim's black SUV before he was driven away.

Trump told reporters he hadn't yet read the letter from the North Korean leader and added with a smile, "I may be in for a big surprise, folks." But minutes earlier, he had described the note as "a very interesting letter," and teased journalists about revealing its contents.

Later Friday, deputy White House press secretary Hogan Gidley confirmed that Trump had read the letter, but he did not reveal its contents.

ACROSS THE NATION

Lava flows cut off access to more Hawaii neighborhoods

HONOLULU (AP)—A lava flow from the erupting Kilauea volcano has cut off access to Kapoho and Vacationland on Hawaii's Big Island, officials said Saturday. The Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency also said vigorous lava eruptions are continuing in Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens. The volcano began erupting on May 3, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate and destroying dozens of homes. County officials said in a news release that there is no access to Kapoho and Vacationland along Highway 132 or Highway 137 because of the lava flow. Video posted on Twitter showed a heap of smoldering debris blocking the roadway, as smoke billowed into the air. Officials had issued mandatory orders for residents of Leilani Estates and those in Kapoho Beach and Vacationland to leave by Friday afternoon or risk being trapped and unreachable by emergency crews.

Police: Boy fights off man who tried to steal father's car

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut police say an 11-year-old boy attacked a man who stole his father's car while the boy was inside, prompting the man to flee. Police say 43-year-old Edward Asberry of Harford faces charges including kidnapping and risk of injury to a minor after he jumped in the car outside a McDonald's restaurant Saturday and took off with the boy inside. Police say the boy's father left the car running with the child inside. Police say the boy attacked Asberry when he realized the driver wasn't his father, causing Asberry to stop the car and take off on foot. Asberry took a backpack from the car before he ran. He was arrested shortly after. Police say no one was injured. It wasn't immediately clear Saturday whether Asberry has an attorney.

FBI agent's gun accidentally discharges in Denver nightclub

DENVER (AP)—An off-duty FBI agent dancing at a Denver nightclub accidentally discharged a firearm, wounding another patron in the leg, police said Saturday. The victim, an adult male, was taken to a local hospital in good condition, said Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson. Police refused to identify the hospital. Jackson said the agent, whose identity wasn't released, was dancing at the downtown club around 12:45 a.m. Saturday when the firearm fell from the agent's waistband holster onto the floor. It discharged when the agent picked it up. Police investigators interviewed the agent before releasing the agent to an FBI supervisor. The police investigation was continuing, and any charges would be determined by the Denver District Attorney's Office, said Officer Marika Putnam. Denver FBI spokeswoman Amy Sanders declined to comment, citing an ongoing investigation. Telephone messages to the nightclub, Mile High Spirits Distillery and Tasting Bar, weren't immediately returned Saturday.

Report: Trump lawyers' made case to Mueller against subpoena

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's lawyers composed a secret 20-page letter to special counsel Robert Mueller to assert that he cannot be forced to testify while arguing that he could not have committed obstruction because he has absolute authority over all federal investigations.

The existence of the letter, which was first reported and posted by The New York Times on Saturday, was a bold assertion of presidential power and another front on which Trump's lawyers have argued that the president can't be subpoenaed in the special counsel's ongoing investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

The letter is dated January 29 and addressed to Mueller from John Dowd, one of Trump's lawyers at the time who has since resigned from the legal team. In the letter, the Trump's lawyers argue that a charge of illegal obstruction is moot because the Constitution empowers the president to, "if he wished, terminate the inquiry, or even exercise his power to pardon."

Trump weighed in on Saturday on Twitter, asking "Is the Special Counsel/Justice Department leaking my lawyers letters to the Fake News Media?" He added: "When will this very expensive Witch Hunt Hoax ever end? So bad for our Country."

Mueller has requested an interview with the president to determine whether he had criminal intent to obstruct the investigation into his associates' possible links to Russia's election interference. Trump had previously signaled that he would be willing to sit for an interview, but his legal team, including head lawyer Rudy Giuliani, have privately and publicly expressed concern that the president could risk charges of perjury.

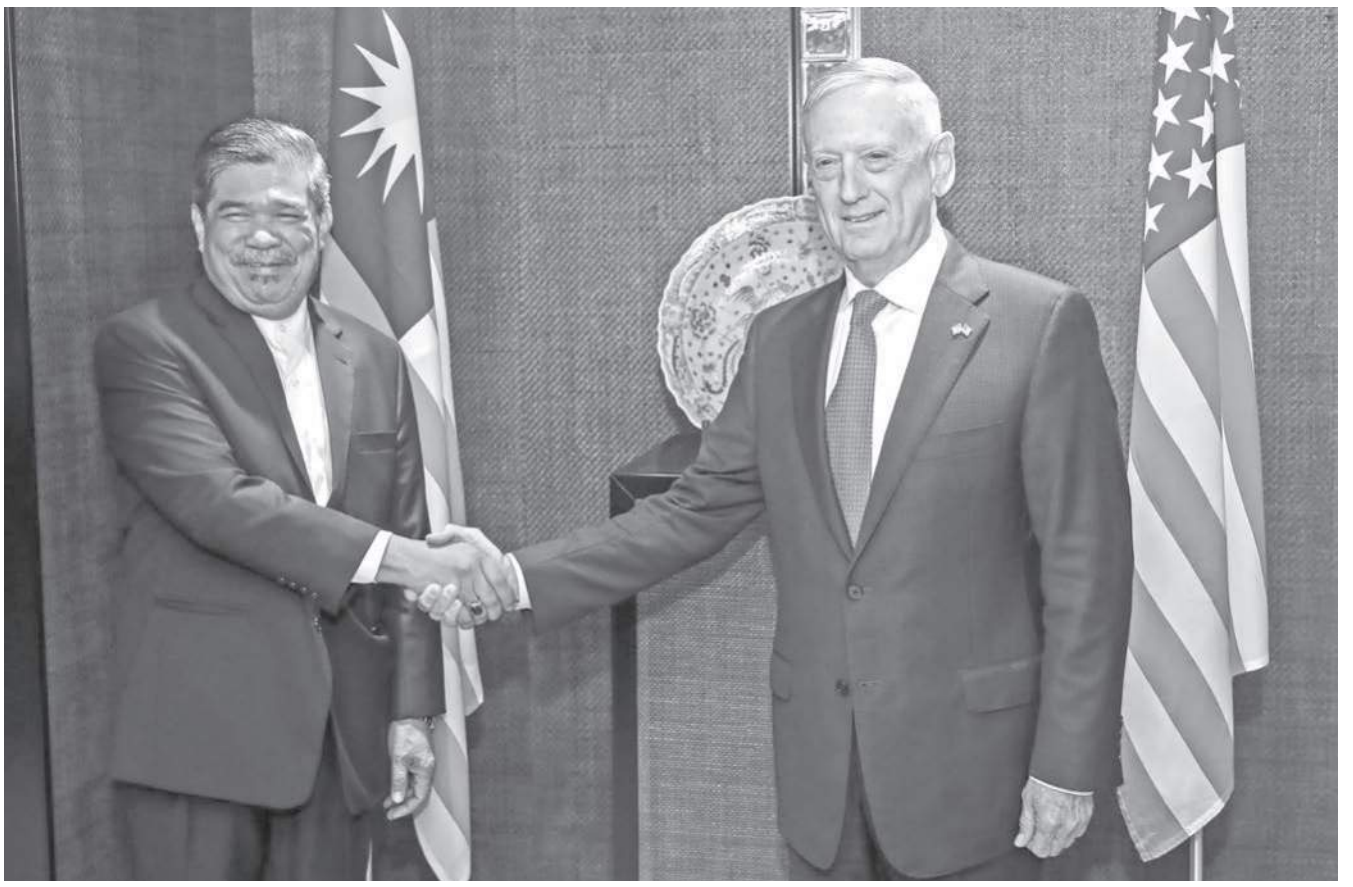
If Trump does not consent to an interview, Mueller will have to decide whether to forge forward with a historic grand jury subpoena. His team raised the possibility in March of subpoenaing the president but it is not clear if it is still under active consideration. Giuliani has told The Associated Press that the president's legal team believes the special counsel does not have the authority to do so.

A court battle is likely if Trump's team argues that the president can't be forced to answer questions or be charged with obstruction of justice. President Bill Clinton was charged with obstruction in 1998 by the House of Representatives as part of his impeachment trial. And one of the articles of impeachment prepared against Richard Nixon in 1974 was for obstruction.

Topics of Mueller's obstruction investigation include the firings of both Comey and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, as well Trump's reaction to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' recusal from the Russia investigation.

Asia

Mattis warns China over 'militarization' of South China Sea



AP
U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, right, and Malaysia's Defense Minister Mohamad Sabu shake hands before their bilateral meeting at the 17th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-la Dialogue, an annual defense and security forum in Asia, in Singapore, Sunday, June 3, 2018.

SINGAPORE (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Saturday raised the prospect of additional American steps against China if its "militarization" of the South China Sea keeps apace. He said Beijing was intimidating and coercing others in the region by putting weapons systems on manmade islands.

President Donald Trump, backing the remarks by his Pentagon chief at an international security forum in Singapore, said on Twitter: "Very surprised that China would be doing this?"

Mattis said the Trump administration's recent decision to disinvite China from a multinational naval exercise this summer was an "initial response" to Beijing's island activity. Mattis called the U.S. action a "relatively small consequence. I believe there are much larger consequences in the future."

China's reliance on military muscle to achieve its goals "is not a way to make long-term collaboration the rule of the road in a region that's important to China's future," Mattis said, when asked to elaborate.

"There are consequences that will continue to come home to roost, so to speak, with China, if they don't find a way to work more collaboratively with all of the nations who have interests," he said.

The bluster comes at a delicate time in U.S.-China relations, as the Trump administration is warily asking for China's help with North Korea ahead of a June 12 summit, while also threatening a trade war. Trump renewed his threat to hike tariffs on Chinese goods, just days before his commerce secretary's arrived in Beijing on Saturday for trade talks.

Mattis said there was little doubt about Beijing's intentions.

"Despite China's claims to the contrary, the placement of these weapons systems is tied directly to military use for the purposes of intimidation and coercion," Mattis said at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue.

China recently has deployed anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, electronic jammers and other equipment on the Spratly Islands, and landed a bomber aircraft at Woody Island.

Mattis also touched on Taiwan, a longstanding dispute between the U.S. and China. He said Washington will continue to provide defense equipment and services to Taiwan and oppose any effort to alter the status quo. China claims the self-governing island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force, if necessary.

But he also said the U.S. welcomes cooperation with China "wherever possible," and announced that he has accepted Beijing's invitation to visit soon. It was not immediately clear whether that invitation would stand after the conference.

Mattis' comments drew a pointed reaction from a Chinese official at the meeting.

Senior Col. Zhao Xiaozhuo said a U.S. move to send two warships into China's "territorial waters" was a violation of law, and an "obvious provocation to China's national security and territorial integrity."

Duterte tells UN expert 'to go to hell' over criticism

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte lashed out Sunday at another U.N. human rights expert for making critical remarks about his supposed role in the expulsion of the chief justice, telling him "to go to hell."

Duterte dismissed the remarks of Diego Garcia-Sayan and told him not to meddle in domestic problems. Duterte was replying to a reporter's question before flying on a visit to South Korea.

"Tell him not to interfere with the affairs of my country. He can go to hell," Duterte said in a late-night televised news conference. "He is not a special person and I do not recognize his rapporteur title."

Garcia-Sayan told reporters in Manila on Thursday that the unprecedented ouster of Maria Lourdes Sereno as chief justice after Duterte lambasted her in public is an attack on judicial independence that could put Philippine democracy at risk.

Duterte has reacted with similar public outbursts in the past against other U.N. rapporteurs who raised alarm and sought an independent investigation into his bloody campaign against illegal drugs, which has left thousands of mostly poor drug suspects dead. Police blamed the deaths on clashes with law enforcers.

Sereno's ouster has generated "a climate of intimidation" in the 15-member high court and other levels of the judiciary, Garcia-Sayan said in an interview with The Associated Press in Manila.

He added that there was no formal U.N. investigation into Sereno's removal, but as the U.N. rapporteur who looks into threats to independence of judges and lawyers worldwide, he had to speak up when problems are reported anywhere in the world. He cited his upcoming report on such a threat to the judiciary in Poland.

"For a rapporteur of the U.N. on independence of justice to keep silent when a chief justice in any country in the world, even in my country, would be dismissed in such way is impossible, and it will be immoral to stay silent," Garcia-Sayan, a former justice and foreign minister of Peru, said.

He said he sent questions to the Philippine government about the circumstances leading to the May 11 ouster of Sereno and expressed hopes that the Duterte administration would reply within 60 days and agree to a dialogue on issues that could threaten the judiciary's independence.

Sereno, 57, was expelled by an 8-6 vote on a petition filed by government Solicitor General Jose Calida, who accused her of failing to file asset disclosures as a state university law professor years ago, a charge she denies. It pre-empted impeachment proceedings against Sereno that were then underway in Congress.

Sereno has appealed the ruling, citing a constitutional principle that top judiciary officials can only be removed by congressional impeachment. A majority of the 23-member Senate, including some Duterte allies, has asked the Supreme Court to review its decision, calling it a "dangerous precedent" that infringed on Congress' power to impeach senior officials.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Garcia-Sayan was misinformed and added that while Duterte has been critical of Sereno for claiming that he plotted against her, the president had no hand in her expulsion. His dislike of Sereno "is not an attack to the judiciary or an affront to judicial independence," Roque said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India, Pakistan trade fire in Kashmir; 2 dead, 8 wounded

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian officials say two paramilitary soldiers have been killed and eight civilians wounded when Pakistani soldiers attacked dozens of forward posts along the highly militarized frontier in disputed Kashmir. The fighting comes barely a week after the two nuclear-armed rivals agreed to stop trading fire along the volatile frontier and uphold a cease-fire accord dating back 15 years. Top police officer S.D. Singh says authorities are first trying to evacuate sick and injured villagers living near the frontier in bulletproof vehicles amid intense shelling and automatic gunfire. Indian border guards say Pakistan "yet again blatantly" violated the 2003-cease-fire agreement and they are retaliating. Pakistan did not immediately comment. India and Pakistan have a long history of bitter relations over Kashmir, which both claim.

US commerce secretary in Beijing for talks on trade surplus

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross arrived in Beijing on Saturday for talks on China's promise to buy more American goods after Washington revived tensions by renewing its threat of tariff hikes on Chinese high-tech exports. The talks focus on adding details to China's May 19 promise to narrow its politically volatile surplus in trade in goods with the United States, which reached a record $375.2 billion last year. President Donald Trump threw the status of the talks into doubt this week by renewing a threat to hike tariffs on $50 billion of Chinese goods over complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. Private sector analysts say that while Beijing is willing to compromise on its trade surplus, it will resist changes that might threaten plans to transform China into a global technology competitor. The two governments released no schedule for the talks, but China said earlier that Ross was due to be in Beijing through Monday. Reporters saw Ross outside his hotel at midday Saturday but he didn't respond to their questions before he got in a car and was driven away. Ross was to have a dinner meeting Saturday evening with Vice Premier Liu He at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

Japan navy spots NKorea tanker suspected of illegal transfer

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Foreign Ministry said Friday that a Japanese warship has spotted a North Korean tanker and another ship with a Korean name apparently transferring fuel on the open seas in violation of U.N. sanctions. The ministry said in a statement that the two vessels were suspected of conducting offshore ship-to-ship transfers banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions. It said Japan has informed the Security Council of the May 24 sighting of North Korean tanker Sam Jong 2 alongside a ship of unknown nationality with a Korean name. A Japanese destroyer spotted the two east of Shanghai. The U.N. has blacklisted Sam Jong 2. Japan reported earlier this week a similar sighting of another blacklisted North Korean tanker and a suspected Chinese-flagged ship in the East China Sea. U.N. sanctions on North Korea limit energy trade and ban offshore transfers of goods to North Korean ships.

World

New Italian govt vows to create jobs, deport migrants

ROME (AP)—Italy's new populist leaders commemorated the founding of the Italian republic by attending a pomp-filled military parade Saturday—and then promised to get to work creating jobs and expelling migrants.

"The free ride is over," League leader Matteo Salvini, Italy's new interior minister, warned migrants at a rally in northern Italy. "It's time to pack your bags."

The pledge of mass deportations to come was a reminder that Italy has a staunchly anti-immigrant, right-wing party in its governing coalition—and that the European Union will face a whole new partner governing its fourth-largest economy.

Earlier, Salvini joined Premier Giuseppe Conte and the rest of the newly sworn-in Cabinet to view the Republic Day parade. Italy's aeronautic acrobatic squad flew low and loud over downtown Rome trailing smoke in the red, white and green of the Italian flag.

AP

Leader of the League party and Italian Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, poses for a photo as he walks through the crowd on the occasion of celebrations for Italy's Republic Day, in Rome Saturday, June 2, 2018.

The national pride on display is a feature of every Republic Day, but it took on a particular significance this year after Italy on Friday ended three months of political and financial turmoil and swore in a government whose populist and euroskeptic leanings have alarmed Europe.

Conte, a law professor plucked from relative obscurity to head an unlikely governing alliance of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and League, said the celebrations Saturday transcended all the tensions of recent days.

"It's the celebration for all of us, of our republic," he said.

Conte's Cabinet was sworn in after a last-minute deal averted the threat of a new election that could have turned into a referendum on whether Italy stayed with the shared European euro currency. The political stability relieved financial markets on Friday but Italy's European neighbors continued to express concerns about the euroskeptic bent and the heavy spending agenda of Italy's new government.

"Italy is destroying itself—and dragging down Europe with it," read the headline of Germany's Der Spiegel magazine, the cover of which featured a forkful of spaghetti with one dangling strand tied up as a noose.

While Spiegel is known for such provocations, another Spiegel article last week drew an official protest from Italy's ambassador to Germany.

On Saturday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel phoned Conte and invited him to visit soon. Merkel's office said both leaders emphasized the importance of continued close bilateral cooperation.

Conte has so far left policy specifics to the drivers of his improbable rise, his two deputies: Salvini and 5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio.

Di Maio, the new economic development minister, reported for work after the parade to his ministry, which would have otherwise been closed for the holiday.

"Starting today, we get to work to create work," Di Maio said in a Facebook video giving Italians a tour of the empty ministry. Di Maio is also the minister for labor, a combination he said made sense since the two ministries must work together.

Offering the new government cautious support was Italy's small, far-right neo-fascist CasaPound party, which held its own Republic Day commemoration on Saturday. Banners featured images of a crossed-out EU flag and "#exIT" written underneath, a reference to calls for Italy to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The 5-Star-League agenda has no such plans, but Conte made clear he was irked by comments this week by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who said Italy had to stop blaming the EU for its problems and must take responsibility to address the poverty in southern Italy.

"That means more work, less corruption. Seriousness," Juncker said in comments his spokeswoman later said he regretted.

In an unscripted blast from the parade route, Conte insisted Italy wasn't alone in facing cases of corruption and declared that "we all have to work for legality."

Syria FM: Iran has no combat forces, bases in the country

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria's foreign minister said Saturday Iranian military advisers are embedded with Syrian troops but Tehran has no combat forces or fixed bases in the country.

Walid al-Moallem's comments came amid rising tension in the region as Israel has repeatedly warned against any permanent Iranian military presence in Syria. Al-Moallem said Israel is making false claims to try to pressure Iran, its archrival.

In May, Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes in response to what it said was an Iranian rocket attack on its positions in the occupied Golan Heights. It was the most serious confrontation between Israel and Iran to date.

Scores of Iranian soldiers have been killed in battles with insurgents in Syria, including a number of officers. Several others were also killed in the past few months in airstrikes said to be carried out by Israel.

Iran has repeatedly said in the past that it only has advisers in Syria but thousands of Iran-backed groups from Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan have played instrumental role in helping government forces regain control of areas held by insurgents. Those areas include eastern neighborhoods of the northern city of Aleppo, the eastern province of Deir el-Zour and parts of Idlib and Hama provinces to the west.

On April 9, an airstrike struck the T4 air base in central Syria reportedly targeting a unit of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps and killing several Iranians, including a colonel who was a commander of the guards' Aerospace Force. Russia blamed Israel for the attack.

"There are Iranian advisers in Syria some of whom were martyred while working with the Syrian Arab army and their presence is part of an agreement and in coordination with the armed forces on where they should be," al-Moallem said. "There are no fixed military bases for the Islamic Republic of Iran and what Israel is circulating are lies."

"When the conspiracy against Syria began in 2011 our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran came to help Syria in fighting terrorism," al-Moallem said adding that the Syrian people are "grateful" for this help from Iran.

"As long as there is war on terrorism, Syria as a sovereign state will cooperate with whoever it wants in fighting terrorism," he said.

Al-Moallem denied reports that an agreement was reached between regional and other powers over the situation of southwestern Syria where the country's Israeli-occupied Golan Heights are located.

On Friday, Russia's ambassador to the U.N. Vasily Nebenzia said he heard from the news that an agreement was reached on "certain disengagement in the southwest of Syria and, I think, my understanding is that an agreement has been reached."

However, asked about Nebenzia's comments al-Moallem said no agreement has been reached for southern Syria, adding that Damascus is not currently involved in any negotiations over the area.

Spain's new leader is sworn in, faces Catalan conundrum

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—New Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez had been barely sworn in Saturday before one of the country's most critical issues facing his fragile government was pressed upon him: ending the Catalan secession crisis.

Less than two hours after Sanchez had taken his oath to uphold the Spanish Constitution, Catalan chief Quim Torra demanded to meet with Sanchez and speak "government to government" regarding the future of the wealthy yet restive northeastern region.

"Pedro Sanchez, let us talk, take risks, both you and I. Let us sit down at a table and talk, government to government," Torra said after swearing in his regional Cabinet in Barcelona on Saturday.

Torra, who was chosen by separatist lawmakers to lead the region last month, said his government "accepts the charge to continue forward with the mandate ... to form an independent state."

Sanchez, the leader of Spain's Socialist Party, came to power after he successfully ousted conservative predecessor Mariano Rajoy, who lost a no-confidence vote in parliament on Friday.

In order to cobble together the support to cast out Rajoy, Sanchez promised to open talks with Torra in order to get the votes he needed from the Catalan pro-secession lawmakers in the national parliament.

Sanchez said Thursday that one of the priorities of his government would be "rebuilding bridges" with the country's regions and "establishing the foundations that allow us to normalize relations and start a dialogue between the Spanish government and the new government in Catalonia."

Sanchez, however, insisted that any solutions for Catalonia must fit within Spain's Constitution, which calls the nation "indivisible" and says national sovereignty resides in the Madrid-based parliament.

Sanchez had been Rajoy's most loyal backer of a government takeover of Catalonia's regional affairs following an illegal and unsuccessful declaration of independence by the region's parliament in October.

That federal takeover came to an end Saturday after Torra formed his Catalan government. Torra's 13 regional ministers took oaths of allegiance to Catalonia while omitting the traditional oath of allegiance to the Spanish Constitution.

Torra, a fervent Catalan nationalist, was hand-picked by former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont to succeed him. Puigdemont is fighting extradition from Germany to Spain, where he is sought on charges of rebellion and misuse of public funds.

Watch clashes in Barcelona in March after Puigdemont's arrest in Germany.

Torra's prior statements in articles social media posts deriding Spaniards have been called xenophobic by critics. He has recently apologized for those views.

Focus

AP
In this May 3, 2018 photo, Denia Perez, a student at Quinnipiac University School of Law, poses for a photo on the school's North Haven, Conn., campus. Connecticut's Judicial Branch is in the process of changing its rules to allow law students who don't have legal residency in the U.S to become practicing lawyers in the state. Perez, who was brought illegally to the United States from Mexico when she was 11 months old and who graduated this month, proposed the change.

'Dreamers' are getting law degrees, and taking on the system

By PAT EATON-ROBB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)— Denia Perez's parents brought her from Mexico to the United States illegally when she was 11. Last month, she became among the first of the so-called "Dreamers" to earn a law degree. And now, she and others are using their lawyerly know-how to take on the system so they can legally practice.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows young immigrants who entered the U.S. before 2007 and before their 16th birthday to go to school under temporary renewable work permits, became law in 2012. That means the first beneficiaries have now had just enough time to graduate from high school, get a bachelor's degree and now, in some cases, a law degree.

The problem: Most states require that practicing lawyers be U.S. citizens or have legal residency status.

Relatively few "Dreamers" have completed law degrees, said Sheila Hayre, a visiting law professor at Quinnipiac University, from whose law school Perez graduated this month. Perez is the only one currently seeking admission to Connecticut's bar. But she and peers who are also getting law degrees are positioning themselves for a fight.

"It's just become normal for me to take all these things into consideration when I'm planning what to do with my life," said Perez, who plans to take the bar exam in July. "But part of me is frustrated and tired of having to jump though all these hoops to continue to live and contribute to this country."

She testified this month, three days after graduating, before a committee of the Connecticut bar, seeking a rule change that would allow her to practice law. Several other states, including California, Florida, New York and New Jersey, have already passed laws or implemented similar rule changes to open their bars to DACA students.

And the American Bar Association, after hearing from DACA students seeking admission to the bar in several states, adopted a resolution in August that urges Congress to amend federal law, adding language that bar admission should never be denied based solely on immigration status.

"We have invested in these kids," Hayre said. "So it makes sense to have them contributing to the economy and society as productive members of the community. In a way, it's a no-brainer."

But there is opposition. Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow with the Heritage Foundation, said he finds it inconceivable that anyone who is not a legal resident could be permitted to take an oath to uphold the laws of the United States and join the bar.

"They are in fact in the country illegally and violating federal law," said Spakovsky, who is a lawyer. "I wouldn't want someone who is in the country illegally to defend me, because the Department of Homeland Security could swoop in at any time and remove my lawyer from the country, and then where would I be?"

Perez has three younger brothers who were born in the U.S. and are citizens. Her parents have green cards. She is the only member of the family who is not a legal resident.

The rule she wrote would allow admission to the bar for anyone "authorized to work lawfully in the United States." That would include those on DACA permits.

"I was very impressed with (Perez's) diligence, her intellect and her commitment to not only her legal studies, but what she envisioned for herself in being helpful to people who are underserved in our community," said Anne Dranginis, a former state Appellate Court judge who now chairs the Connecticut Bar Examining committee. "It was a unanimous vote for us to say to the rules committee that we support this rules change."

Connecticut's proposed change will get another review in June at a meeting of state judges. If affirmed, it could go into effect as early as July, Hayre said, noting that in most states the process has been adversarial and taken several years.

But in Connecticut, so far there has been no public opposition. Perez's proposal was first presented to judicial officials in January. It is supported by the deans of law schools at Quinnipiac, Yale University, the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Bar Association

Perez, who grew up in northern California and has a degree from San Francisco State University in women's and gender studies, also plans to apply to the bar in New York. She is beginning a two-year fellowship with an organization called Make The Road New York, working with people facing deportation.

She said she feels it's her responsibility to expand on the work other DACA students have done securing privileges in Connecticut, such as in-state tuition. This year, they successfully lobbied lawmakers for access to public financial aid.

Other DACA students have also tried to change educational policies, with varying degrees of success.

Thomas Kim, a DACA student who pushed for the American Bar Association resolution before graduating with honors from Arizona State University's law school this spring, said he's still waiting for confirmation from Oregon's bar that there will no problem with his admission there, should he pass the bar exam in July.

Kim, 26, chairs the American Bar Association's law student division and said the group plans to wait until Congress deals with the larger issue of renewing DACA before pushing for a national policy on law students.

"I think we will have to wait until the political climate transforms and changes completely," he said, "so perhaps until the next presidential election, that's my personal feeling."

Health & Wellness

Tips for hitting your stride

By ALINE MCKENZIE and LESLIE GARCIA
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Walking for exercise requires just a little more effort than meandering along. Dallas running coach Luann Bruster and other experts offer the following tips:

■ **Stand tall and look forward to give your lungs plenty of room to work.**

■ **Keep your steps short and quick, rather than long.** To go faster, take faster steps, not longer ones.

■ **Bend your arms at the elbow, parallel to the ground, with fingers relaxed.** Swing them forward and back, not side to side. When you swing them forward, your hands should be about as high as your breastbone.

■ **It's important to drink fluids before, during and after a workout.** If your route has no water fountains, carry your own water.

■ **Calluses may be ugly, but they protect your feet against blisters.** However, they can crack and become sore. A good foot or hand cream will help keep them soft after a bath or shower.

■ **If you chafe in the underarms or inner thighs, try using cornstarch or potato starch.** There are also specialty lubricants, such as Bodyglide, available at running stores.

■ **The tighter the clothes, the less risk of chafing.** Bicycle shorts and snug tops, particularly made of lycra or microfiber, may be more comfortable than loose shirts and shorts.

■ **Just walk.** Even 15 minutes is better than nothing. Then tomorrow, add five minutes; the next day, another five.

■ **Pump up your walk.** Every 10 minutes or so, blast out for about three minutes, then resume your pace.

■ **Vary terrain.** You'll get a better workout by going up and down hills than you will on flat ground.

■ **Leave hand weights at home.** They'll throw off your balance. Instead, use free weights at home to help build muscle and make your walk more efficient.

■ **Go into walking with the intent of pleasure and of improving your health rather than losing weight.** If you do drop some pounds, consider it a bonus.

■ **OK, so losing weight is your No. 1 goal.** You'll need to eat healthier, plus walk briskly about an hour every day. (Twice a day for 30 minutes counts.)

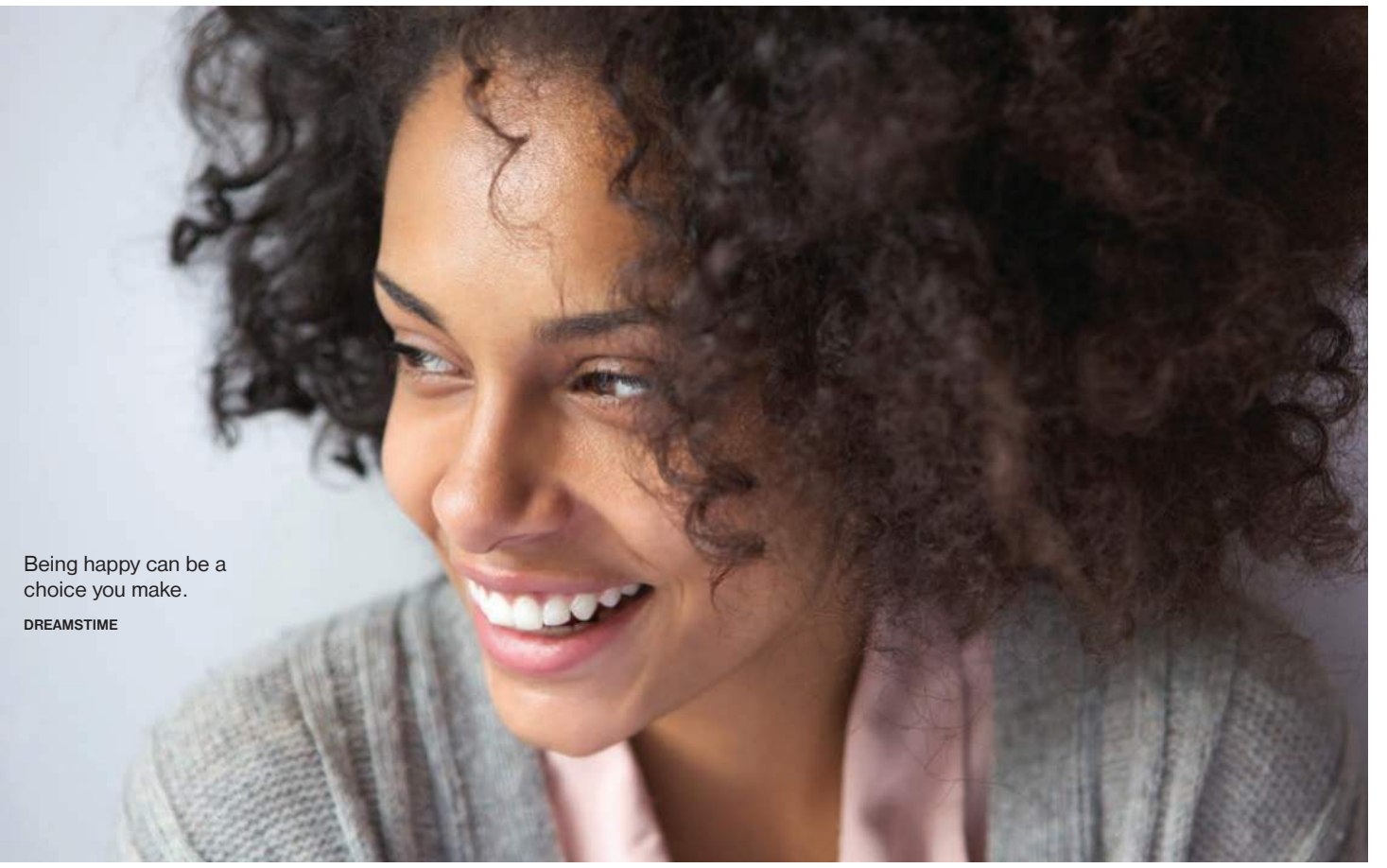
■ **Try not to let those speedy types discourage you.** Remember, they probably didn't start out fast. (Unless of course they're reformed runners, but we won't think about that.)

■ **Keep a log and write down what you're doing.** If you're feeling especially motivated, write down your moods when you walk, how you feel afterward, etc. Or simply mark your walking minutes on a calendar. It's a "strong visual reminder," one that will give you incentive to fill the days, says Maggie Spilner, walking editor of Prevention.

■ **Walk with a buddy.** You're more likely to stick with it if you know somebody's waiting for you.

■ **Have fun!**

This advertorial is sponsored by
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Being happy can be a choice you make.
DREAMSTIME

MAYO MINDFULNESS

Grow happiness through focus and practice

Many people wait around for happiness to find them, when in reality it's sometimes only a positive thought away. Being happy can be a choice you make. There are many small techniques you can try to create a happier and more enjoyable life.

What science says about happiness

"Research has shown you have control over your happiness," explains Stacy Blackburn, D.O., Mayo Clinic Health System family physician. "It all relates back to your personality and also your thoughts and behaviors, which can be changed."

While some people think landing their dream job or driving a fancy car will bring them lots of joy, this is not often the case. On average, people who have wealth, beauty or less stress are no happier than anyone else.

This is great news for many, because there are ways to live a happier life that don't reflect your income or appearance. Happy people seem to build their life choices around five pillars, says Dr. Blackburn. They include:

■ Appreciating what you have
■ Devoting time to friends and family
■ Feeling a sense of purpose
■ Living in the moment
■ Maintaining an optimistic outlook

Choose optimism

Optimism is one aspect of your life over which you have complete control. Being optimistic involves seeing your situation from the positive side instead of the negative. It can be easy for negative thoughts to take over, but they don't have to. If you aren't naturally an optimistic person, there are ways you can challenge your pessimistic thinking. Dr. Blackburn suggests combating negative thoughts by recognizing them and asking these questions:

■ Is the situation really as bad as I think?
■ Is there another way to look at the situation?
■ What can I learn from this experience that I can use in the future?

Invest in relationships

Relationships are an important part of being happy. Can you think of a friend who can always make you laugh? When you surround yourself with happy people, their happiness is likely to rub off on you and improve your mood. Dr. Blackburn says research suggests that relationships provide the strongest meaning and bring the most purpose to your life.

While it can be easy to take family and friends for granted, they're typically the people who are there through good and bad times. It's important you make time for these relationships and give happiness in return. Communicating kind words and actions to the special people in your life and showing appreciation can help you become a happier person.

Express gratitude

Gratitude is a sense of wonder, appreciation and thankfulness for life. Taking time out of your day to recognize the good things in your life and appreciate what you have can help practice gratitude. It can be as simple as taking a minute every day to identify at least one thing that enriches your life. Practice substituting ungrateful thoughts for grateful ones. Try practicing gratitude before you go to sleep at night and right away when you wake up in the morning.

Find your purpose

People who strive to meet a goal or fulfill a mission are happier than those who don't have such aspirations. Goals provide a sense of purpose, boost self-esteem and bring people together. The goal itself doesn't matter as long as it is moving you closer toward living a happier life.

"Aligning everyday activities with the long-term meaning and purpose of your life can help you feel more content," says Dr. Blackburn. "Some people are engaged in activities they love, while others aren't. If you're searching for your purpose, ask yourself these questions:

■ What excites and energizes me?
■ What are my proudest achievements?
■ How do I want others to remember me?

Practice

While all of the aforementioned advice suggests ways to help you become happier, practice is the key to achieving happiness. Remember that your choices, thoughts and actions all carry influence over your happiness. Making an effort to cultivate optimism and express gratitude can become a simple habit over time.

Live in the moment

"Don't wait for joy to come on a day when you're less busy or stressed, because that day may never come," says Dr. Blackburn. "Look for opportunities throughout your day to enjoy the small pleasures in life. Focus your energy on the positives of the present instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future." ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Life & Style

Roseanne Barr return possible, but lesser platform likely

AP
This image released by ABC shows Sara Gilbert, left, and Roseanne Barr in a scene from "Roseanne."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After her network dropped her show, streaming services dropped her reruns, and her agency dropped her for a racist tweet, Roseanne Barr is vowing she's not finished.

Whether anyone will have her is an open question.

Mainstream television, where she saw soaring success both on the original "Roseanne" and the recent short-lived reboot, is probably out. But she finds herself in an environment flush with media outlets where the style of incendiary statements she was making long before Tuesday's tweet is not a hindrance, but rather an asset.

"Whether or not she will see herself back on a major network is probably doubtful," said Eric Dezenhall of Dezenhall Resources, a crisis-management firm. "If her goal is earning the big bucks again, network is where you get it, but I think that for certain people what years ago was a career crisis is now a brand extension."

If Barr wants to present herself as a victim of a culture where political correctness has run amok, a stance she has already assumed on Twitter, she has a built in fan-base willing to embrace her next move, whether as an actress, comic or commentator.

"She does have people who will see her as kind of a brave First Amendment type figure," Dezenhall said, "and you now have all kinds of outlets for entertainers, ranging from podcasts to streaming networks, that encourage just her kind of obnoxiousness ... If you move lower on the food chain from networks, you can make an outrageous remark once a day."

Rebecca Sun, who covers the entertainment industry for the trade publication The Hollywood Reporter, agrees that while network TV is a non-starter, Barr will find a home if she wants it.

"The country is certainly divided enough and partisan enough," Sun said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I can easily see some sort of fringe right-wing media outlet wanting to capitalize on this publicity and give her some airtime."

She already has at least one offer.

Michael Caputo, a former campaign aide of President Donald Trump, is planning to launch a streaming video platform called Bond in June. In interviews with Variety and The Daily Beast, he said he had already eyed Roseanne as a contributor in some form, and intends to pursue her more seriously now that she's out of a job.

He tweeted at Barr that he could offer her a platform without the networks and executives that fired her. "Let your fans decide," he tweeted.

It's also unclear what exactly she would do on such a platform.

Other than the stand-up comedy career that preceded it, Roseanne has had little success outside of her sitcom.

And a return of that show in any form appears unlikely, as two of its executive producers and several cast members have condemned her and distanced themselves from her, while none have publicly defended her.

Prospects have varied for those whose careers have been upended by racial remarks. "Seinfeld" star Michael Richards has made only rare appearances in media since his 2006 racist tirade at a comedy club. Celebrity chef Paula Deen has been seen only slightly more after admitting under oath as part of a lawsuit in 2013 that she had used the N-word.

Royal wedding TV expert with posh British accent is American

NEW YORK (AP)—Thomas J. Mace-Archer-Mills, Esq., knew more about the royal wedding than the millions who listened to his global TV commentary outside Windsor Castle—delivered in a posh British accent.

It turns out he's a mere Italian-American mortal—from upstate New York.

Tommy Muscatello first learned to sound undeniably British in a high school production of "Oliver" two decades ago.

The Wall Street Journal outed him as an ordinary American 10 days after the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

The 38-year-old, who performs as Mace-Archer-Mills, insists he's no fraud; he really knows lots about all matters royal.

Muscatello says he's never claimed he was born in Britain. He hails from Bolton Landing, a hamlet about 200 miles (322 kilometers) north of New York City where he grew up.

One thing is certain: He has gathered more information about the British royal family than you'll ever want to know—a veritable laundry list of characters close to the throne reaching back to Oliver Cromwell, an English military and political leader and one of the signatories in 1649 of King Charles I's death warrant that led to his beheading.

It's all online under the auspices of an organization called the British Monarchist Society and Foundation, with himself as chairman and editor of a magazine called Crown & Country. The group has its own YouTube channel and even accepts donations.

Mace-Archer-Mills has constructed a whole British persona, wearing tweeds and a cap, or sometimes a top hat, and explaining that in his youth in the English county of Kent, "I learned to ride my horses."

He told the Journal that he moved to England in 2012 and works in real estate, but offered no further details.

What matters most to him is to feel and live like a Brit.

On-camera during the May 19 nuptials, he referred to himself as "we"—noting that "we are all the same subjects under her Majesty the Queen."

He calls a collection of cocktails he promotes "Their Majesties' Mixers—When They Reign, They Pour."

Heroic Florida drama teacher to get special Tony Award

NEW YORK (AP)—The special Tony Award that honors educators this year will go to a drama teacher who picks her high school's shows, builds the sets, hems the costumes—and nurtured many of the young people demanding change following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Melody Herzfeld, the one-woman drama department at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, will be presented with the award onstage June 10 at the Tony telecast.

"I'm overwhelmed," Herzfeld told The Associated Press. "But I hope that this award will remind everyone of how vital and important arts education is to our kids. Drama, music, art, creative writing—that's how you make good citizens."

Herzfeld saved 65 lives by barricading students into a small classroom closet on Valentine's Day when police say a former student went on a school rampage, killing 17 people.

She then later cheered as many of her pupils led the nationwide movement for gun reform, including organizing the March For Our Lives demonstration and the charity single "Shine."

The annual honor bestowed by the Tony Awards and Carnegie Mellon University recognizes U.S. educators from kindergarten to 12th grade who have "demonstrated monumental impact on the lives of students and who embodies the highest standards of the profession."

The award includes a $10,000 prize and a pair of tickets to the Tony ceremony and gala. A panel of judges comprised of the American Theatre Wing, The Broadway League, Carnegie Mellon and other leaders from the theater industry selects the winner, based on candidates submitted by the public.

When Herzfeld was being considered for this year's honor—the fourth—one Tony administration committee member commented: "Never has the drama department looked so cool."

Ever modest, Herzfeld said she should take little credit for shaping her teenage students. She said she just lays the foundation by insisting that honesty—onstage and off—be a guiding principle.

"These kids are so close to adulthood they can taste it, but they don't have all the responsibilities of adulthood yet. So it's important to give them a safe place where they can fail or experiment and it doesn't matter."

Truth is so ruthlessly important in her department that her students are as likely to brutally offer a critique that her outfit or hair isn't working as they are to decide that their dramatic scene isn't strong enough.

"I want them to feel confident enough to call out any adult, any bureaucrat, any politician, anyone, even their teacher," she said. "They need to speak truth to power."

Tom Cruise tweets as production starts on 'Top Gun' sequel

Cruise

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Cruise is back on the flight line for a sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun."

The actor on Thursday tweeted a photo of himself as Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in a flight suit, looking at a fighter jet. The photo includes the phrase "feel the need." In the original movie, Cruise's character talks about how he feels the need for speed.

Cruise writes #Day 1 of production of "Top Gun: Maverick."

The movie is scheduled for release in July 2019.

‘Sherlock’ star Cumberbatch praised for tackling muggers

LONDON (AP)—The food-delivery firm Deliveroo thanked Benedict Cumberbatch on Saturday after a newspaper reported that the “Sherlock” star had fought off muggers who were attacking one of its cyclists.

Uber driver Manuel Dias told the Sun newspaper that he was driving Cumberbatch and his wife Sophie Hunter along London’s Marylebone High Street when they saw a cyclist being hit with a bottle.

He said Cumberbatch jumped out of the car and grabbed one of the attackers.

“I had hold of one lad and Benedict another,” Dias was quoted as saying. “He seemed to know exactly what he was doing. He was very brave.”

“Here was ‘Sherlock Holmes’ fighting off four attackers just round the corner from Baker Street,” he added.

The fictional detective’s home address in London is around the corner from the scene of the attack.

Cumberbatch’s spokeswoman declined to comment.

The newspaper didn’t say when the incident occurred. Police said a delivery cyclist was assaulted in the street in November.

On Saturday, Deliveroo praised Cumberbatch “for his heroic actions.”

“On behalf of everyone at Deliveroo: Thank you so much,” it said.

AP

In this Monday, April 16, 2018 file photo, Benedict Cumberbatch waves to fans during Marvel’s Avengers: Infinity War red carpet fan event in Singapore.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

The Weeknd, Jason Mraz, Fantasia set for Songwriters Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—The Weeknd, Jason Mraz, Fantasia and Tony winner Brandon Victor Dixon will appear at the 2018 Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony this month. The organization announced Friday that Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff, Leon Bridges, Stephen Dorff, Chad Elliott, Bob Gaudio, Nora Guthrie, Keith Stegall and Steve Wariner will also attend the June 14 event in New York City. The newly announced attendees will either perform or present an award.

The new Songwriters Hall class includes John Mellencamp, Alan Jackson, Jermaine Dupri, Kool & the Gang, Allee Willis, Bill Anderson and Steve Dorff. Sara Bareilles, Universal Music Group CEO Lucian Grainge and Neil Diamond—who announced he has Parkinson’s disease earlier this year—will receive special honors. The ceremony will be held at the Marriot Marquis Hotel.

Ed Sheeran named songwriter of year at UK’s Novello awards

LONDON (AP)—Ed Sheeran has been named songwriter of the year at Britain’s prestigious Ivor Novello songwriting awards. The inescapable singer won the prize Thursday for his “exceptional body of work” in 2017, including his chart-topping album “Divide.” Sheeran’s hit “The Shape of You” took the prize for most-performed song of the year. Grime musician Stormzy won album of the year for his breakthrough “Gang Signs and Prayer.” The best contemporary song prize went to 19-year-old rapper Dave for the politically charged “Question Time.” The Pogues’ Shane MacGowan received an inspiration award, while Billy Bragg, Cathy Dennis and Billy Ocean were rewarded for career achievements. The awards, named for early 20th-century musician and songwriter Ivor Novello, are presented by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors.

Spokesman: Montel Williams hospitalized after workout

NEW YORK CITY (AP)—Montel Williams has been taken to a hospital after a workout at a New York City gym. Williams’ spokesman tweeted that anyone who knows the 61-year-old television personality knows that Williams is an exercise enthusiast. The spokesman said Thursday that Williams “over did it” and was admitted to the hospital out of an abundance of caution.

The spokesman says Williams is doing well and anticipates being discharged soon. The spokesman did not say which hospital Williams was taken to. Williams was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999.

Vase once kept in Oklahoma museum’s storage sells for $14.5M

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—A centuries-old Chinese vase that was once in storage at an Oklahoma museum has sold at auction for $14.5 million in Hong Kong. The rare, porcelain vase was given to the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa in 1960. It was part of the museum’s permanent collection, though it was kept in storage for more than a decade. The vase is believed to have been commissioned in the early 1700s by Emperor Qianlong. It’s known as a tianquiping, or celestial sphere vase, and had been estimated at $9 million to $11 million ahead of Wednesday’s auction. Museum director Scott Stulen tells the Tulsa World that proceeds from the sale will go into a restricted endowment that will fund the acquisition of more artwork.

Shot fired but rapper Chief Keef not hit at New York hotel

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities say a shot was fired at a New York City hotel near Chief Keef, but the Chicago rapper wasn’t hit. New York police say the shot was fired outside the W Hotel in midtown Manhattan around 4:40 a.m. Saturday. They couldn’t say whether 22-year-old Chief Keef, whose real name is Keith Farrelle Cozart, was the target. A message left with Chief Keef’s agent Ira Goldenring seeking comment or further details wasn’t immediately returned.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for week ending May 31, 2018.

TOP SONGS

1. Psycho (feat. Ty Dolla $ign) Post Malone
2. In My Blood Shawn Mendes
3. I’m Upset Drake
4. Whatever It Takes Imagine Dragons
5. High Hopes Panic! At the Disco
6. Nice For What Drake
7. The Middle Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
8. No Tears Left to Cry Ariana Grande
9. Meant to Be Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
10. God’s Plan Drake

TOP ALBUMS

1. Shawn Mendes Shawn Mendes
2. DAYTONA Pusha T
3. The Greatest Showman (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) Various Artists
4. TESTING A$AP Rocky
5. Love Is Dead CHVRCHES
6. beer bongs & bentleys Post Malone
7. Wildness Snow Patrol
8. Solo: A Star Wars Story (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) John Williams & John Powell
9. Vibras J Balvin
10. Invasion of Privacy Cardi B

Red flags remain in romance that returns after 47 years

DEAR ABBY: I have rekindled a romance from my youth. "Jerry" and I were engaged to be married 47 years ago, but I felt he was too worldly and fast for me, so I broke off the engagement. I later married and had a happy marriage for 36 years until my husband died.

Jerry found me on Facebook and started writing. Abby, he has been married and divorced five times. We eventually got together and have been seeing each other for almost two years now.

He wants us to get married, but I am again hesitant because our lifestyles are so vastly different. I enjoy spending time with him, but I'm also glad when he leaves. Many times I wish I had never answered his first letter. On the other hand, I have had some great times with him. We are so different in many ways—I'm not sure I can put up with some of the things he says and does.

What's wrong with me? Why can't I make up my mind what to do? I have broken up with him twice, but he manages to work his way back into my life. Please tell me what I should do or how to know what is right for me.

REKINDLED ROMANCE

DEAR REKINDLED: Listen closely to your intuition. If you are enjoying the relationship as it is, you should keep it that way. Because you are happy when Jerry leaves and have doubts about being able to tolerate things he says and does, it would be a mistake to wed a man who has struck out at marriage five times.

DEAR ABBY: After many years of fiscal responsibility, hard work and sacrifice, we are set to pay off the mortgage on our house this year. I want to throw an old-fashioned open house/home mortgage-burning party and burn the mortgage in the smoker after the turkey is done. My wife and I never had a reception after our wedding so long ago. I think we are due a party to celebrate this milestone.

My wife is against it. She says too many of our friends and family have financial troubles and a mortgage-burning party would rub their noses in it. She has "loaned" her brother $50,000 over the years, and more to her friends. Most of them have yet to repay.

I think a mortgage-burning party would be an example for them to strive for and achieve, and we deserve to celebrate. Your answer will determine if we have the party. If you vote "yes," you are invited.

BIG ACHIEVEMENT

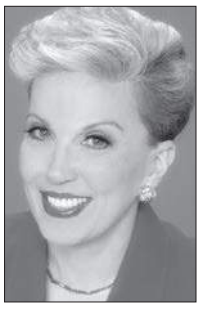
DEAR BIG: Mortgage-burning parties went out of fashion decades ago for many reasons. Among them, the fact that many homeowners no longer live in the same place long enough to pay their mortgages in full. Today many people choose to refinance their loan rather than pay it off.

As much as I'd like to attend your party, I have to vote with your wife. To invite guests whom you know are having money troubles to such an event would be insensitive. If you are in a celebratory mood, by all means throw a party, but be discreet and refrain from flaunting your success in the faces of your guests.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

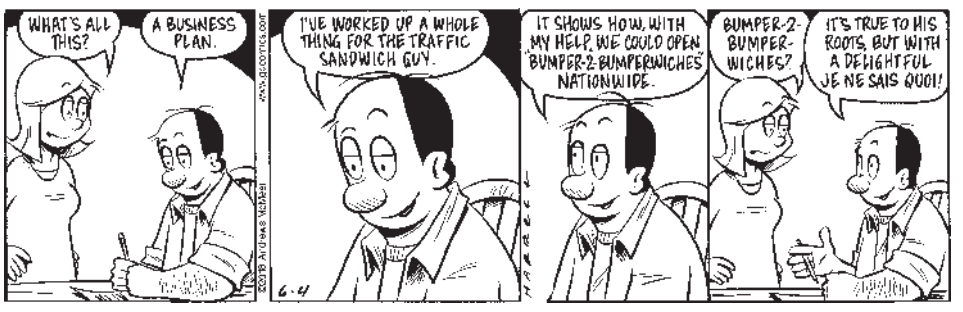
YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED, HOBBES? WE NEED AN ATTITUDE.
AN ATTITUDE?
YEAH. YOU CAN'T BE COOL IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ATTITUDE.
REALLY?
SURE. THEY'RE ALL THE RAGE. NOW WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE COULD ME HAVE?
WE COULD BE COURTEOUSLY DEFERENTIAL.
OH, GOOD. THAT'S REAL COOL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

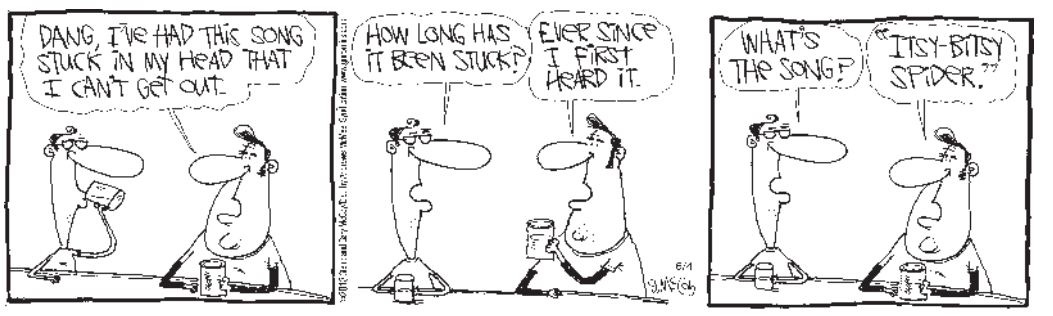
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
A BUSINESS PLAN.
I'VE WORKED UP A WHOLE THING FOR THE TRAFFIC SANDWICH GUY.
IT SHOWS HOW, WITH MY HELP, WE COULD OPEN 'BUMPER-2-BUMPERWICHES' NATIONWIDE.
BUMPER-2-BUMPER-WICHES?
IT'S TRUE TO HIS ROOTS, BUT WITH A DELIGHTFUL JE NE SAIS QUOI!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DANG, I'VE HAD THIS SONG STUCK IN MY HEAD THAT I CAN'T GET OUT.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN STUCK?
EVER SINCE I FIRST HEARD IT.
WHAT'S THE SONG?
"ITSY-BITSY SPIDER."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grimace
5 "East of Eden" brother
8 "Pow!"
12 Indian cooking style
14 Vagrant
15 Traffic jam
16 Capital on a fjord
17 Check-cashing needs
18 Overacts
20 Shopping binge
23 "Jabberwocky" starter
24 Villain in "Wonder Woman"
25 "The Firm" author John
28 Spanish aunt
29 Collision
30 Male turkey
32 Anguished look
34 Corn recipe
35 "Act now!"
36 Financial guru Suze
37 The "J" of J.S. Bach
40 Scot's denial
41 "Nope!"
42 Mythic eagle-lion hybrids
47 Painter Joan
48 Gorges on food
49 Cookware
50 Reuben bread
51 Group of quail

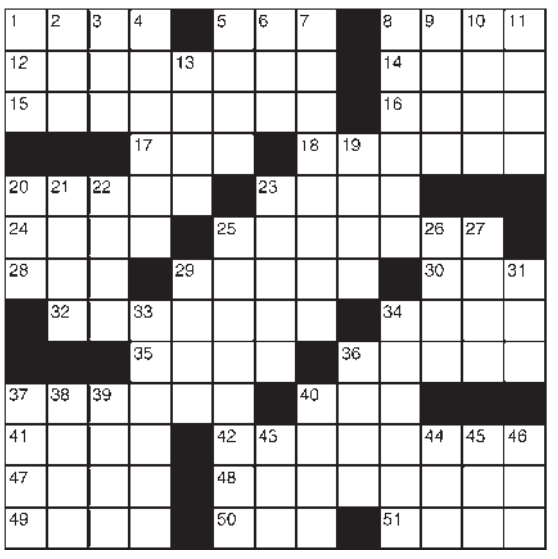
DOWN

1 PTA session
2 Galley item
3 Half of bi-
4 Wee whirlpools
5 Dove calls
6 Joan of —
7 Also
8 Rushing sound
9 Party giver
10 Competent
11 Cattle calls?
13 Shoppe description
19 Prepare potatoes
20 Perched
21 Bluenose
22 Caboose
23 Pamphlet
25 "Molly on the Shore" composer Percy
26 Fermi's bit
27 "— Lisa"
29 "Let's go!"
31 Gents
33 Some potatoes
34 Easily assembled (housing)
36 Lummoxes
37 Skydive
38 Dayton's state
39 In pain
40 Evening, in an ad
43 Jamie Foxx biopic
44 — -de-France
45 Calendar abbr.
46 Farm pen

Solution time: 26 mins.

Y	A	P	■	D	F	W	■	M	O	D	F	M
A	V	E	■	O	N	O	■	E	L	I	■	E
W	A	S	■	J	A	M	E	S	D	E	A	N
N	I	T	■	O	M	E	G	A	■	■	■	■
S	L	O	B	■	E	N	G	■	G	U	L	F
■	■	■	E	L	L	■	Y	A	N	K	E	E
C	O	R	G	I	■	■	■	L	O	R	N	E
T	W	E	E	D	S	■	U	L	M	■	■	■
S	E	A	T	■	T	O	M	■	E	D	G	Y
■	■	■	H	U	R	L	S	■	O	R	E	■
D	I	Z	Z	Y	D	E	A	N	■	N	E	A
S	T	E	A	D	■	O	U	I	■	O	A	R
L	A	N	C	E	■	S	T	P	■	R	■	S

Last Friday's Answer 06-04



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bar Refaeli, 33; Russell Brand, 43; Angelina Jolie, 43; Noah Wyle, 47.

Happy Birthday: Take a step into the future and leave the past behind. It's time to consider stepping up and delivering on the rself but never completed. Additional energy and enthusiasm coupled with intelligent and thought-out maneuvers will encourage others to support your plans and lend a helping hand. It's up to you to make things happen. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 23, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* The advice you offer others should be something that you follow as well. Trust comes from being true to who you are and what you believe in, as well as associating with people who share your values. Choose wisely and make progress. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't rely on someone else to take care of your responsibilities. Disappointment is sure to follow if you don't stay in control and shape the way you want situations to unfold. Opportunity comes from making smart choices. Personal gain is apparent. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Good fortune is within reach if you put forth the effort and do the work yourself. Make choices that will allow you to put your energy where it counts most. Truth coupled with positive intent will lead to the success you deserve. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make your dreams come true. If you need to pick up more skills or learn something in order to follow your heart and pursue your goals, do so. Procrastinating turns into "should've, could've, would've," followed by regret. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Put in your two cents' worth, and take the path that works best for you. If others want to do something different, let them. Before you head off in your own direction, make sure your plans are affordable and realistic. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be certain the changes you incorporate into your life will not dismantle what you've worked so hard to obtain. Clarity coupled with realism will ensure that you reach your objective without loss. Romantic plans should be made. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let someone else make decisions for you. Use your intelligence and brawn to fight your way to victory. Shake things up and aim to get what you want. Networking, collaborating and fighting for your rights are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Simplicity and moderation will be required when dealing with domestic matters, relatives and friends. If someone is excessive or pushy, walk away and do your own thing. Innovative personal change will improve your life and your attitude. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen carefully, but don't take someone's word as gospel. Do your research and don't get involved in anything that is risky or requires you to go into debt. Joint ventures and partnerships are not in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make changes that will ease your stress and make you feel good. Personal relationships can be improved if you are willing to compromise and strive to maintain equality. Restore or end connections that are causing uncertainty. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make plans to fix up your living space or change your current arrangements, but do so for the right reason. Living within your means should be your top priority. Overextending yourself will cause added stress as well as partnership problems. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Gather facts to make sure you are being offered the truth and not an exaggerated or fabricated point of view. Focus on the best way to make personal improvements that will help you feel and look your best. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, playful and innovative. You are outgoing and enthusiastic.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		5	4			7	8
3	2			9				6
		8	2					
5		9			4			
1	8						4	3
			3			1		7
					5	4		
9				2			3	5
2	1			3	8		6	

Difficulty Level ★ 6/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	9	1	2	6	4	5	3	7
7	3	6	1	5	9	4	8	2
4	5	2	7	8	3	1	6	9
9	7	5	6	3	2	8	1	4
2	8	3	4	1	5	7	9	6
1	6	4	8	9	7	3	2	5
5	1	8	9	4	6	2	7	3
3	2	9	5	7	8	6	4	1
6	4	7	3	2	1	9	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/04

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'DARKEST HOUR' (FILM) **Solution: 16 letters**

P	W	N	O	I	T	A	N	E	T	R	A	C	M
I	R	O	T	A	N	H	O	S	L	E	D	N	E
C	I	I	R	R	D	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L
K	G	R	M	L	I	V	Y	D	A	V	I	D	C
U	H	J	O	E	D	A	A	I	R	E	N	L	M
P	T	C	V	N	M	W	L	N	D	A	E	Y	L
K	A	A	E	S	A	I	A	E	C	M	M	N	I
E	R	R	T	E	L	L	N	R	M	E	T	A	F
B	N	I	L	Y	P	O	D	I	T	H	O	M	A
E	O	A	S	I	N	S	E	V	S	W	C	R	Y
R	L	H	C	T	A	S	U	A	E	T	O	E	L
I	D	K	O	R	I	M	C	L	M	H	E	G	L
P	M	I	T	X	I	N	E	B	A	L	Y	R	A
M	A	N	T	H	O	N	Y	N	J	S	T	I	R
E	N	G	E	O	R	G	E	Y	T	A	E	R	T

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/4

Advance, Anthony, Ben, Brave, Brits, Cane, Clemmie, David, Drama, Eden, Elizabeth, Empire, Fate, Film, Gary, George, Germany, Invasion, James, Joe, King, Kristin, Layton, Lily, McCarten, Mendelsohn, Nation, Oldman, Parliament, Pickup, Prime Minister, Rally, Rival, Ronald, Scott, Six, Speech, Thomas, Treaty, Trial, World War Two, Wright

Last Friday's Answer: Rattlesnakes

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SAIPAN INT'L REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER CORPORATION

Is looking to hire

OSHA CERTIFICATION SAFETY OFFICER

- The Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO) shall have completed 5 years of satisfactory experience in preparing and enforcing a safety program on contracts of similar size and complexity in the past; have a current FA/CPR certificate;
- Must have completed 30-hour OSHA Construction safety class or equivalent within the last five years and have documented an average of at least 24 hours of safety training per year for the past five years.
- Must have multi-year experience with the application of EM-385
- Must be certified as STS, CSP or CHST.

For more information, please call Cindy Zhang at 233-5888
or send your resume at P.O. Box 10003 PMB 388 Saipan, MP 96950.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 06/01/18 **Closing Date: 06/15/18**

JVA#18-001: **Community Projects Coordinator I**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#18-002: **Media Marketing Specialist I**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#18-003: **Procurement Officer**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS **MORE**

Please call 235-NEWS.

TAGA SPORTS

APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION

The CNMI's premier sports magazine is now available on issuu.com/tagasports

WHATZIT Solution: Too hot to handle

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

hot handle
hot handle

©WHATZIT? & 2018 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Get ready for Serena-Sharapova showdown

AP
Russia's Maria Sharapova returns a shot against Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during their third round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Saturday, June 2, 2018.

PARIS (AP)— If the upcoming French Open showdown between Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova provides any of the sort of animus and back-and-forth they manage to stir up away from the court, look out.

During a news conference after both won Saturday to set up the longtime rivals' fourth-round matchup at Roland Garros, Williams criticized Sharapova's autobiography as "hearsay" and twice brought up the Russian's 15-month doping ban.

Producing by far the best performance in her return to Grand Slam tennis—16 months after her last major tournament and nine months after having a baby—Williams played cleanly and powerfully in a 6-3, 6-4 tour de force against 11th-seeded Julia Goerges that lasted a mere 75 minutes and lacked much in the way of theatrics.

"There is still a ways to go, but it's moving in the right direction," said Williams, who made only three unforced errors in the first set, 12 in all. "And I think that as long as it's moving in the right direction, I know I will get there."

Sharapova advanced with a similarly lopsided win, 6-2, 6-1 against 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova.

Now comes the drama: Williams vs. Sharapova on Monday with a quarterfinal spot at stake.

They have verbally clashed in the past, such as a 2013 public spat about their private lives.

Williams, 36, owns 23 major singles titles. Sharapova, 31, has won five. Williams has won the French Open three times, Sharapova twice. They are the only active women with a career Grand Slam; they are two of six in history to accomplish that. Both have been ranked No. 1.

But the head-to-head history is overwhelmingly in Williams' favor: She has won 19 of 21 meetings, including 18 in a row.

"Quite frankly, she's probably a favorite in this match, for sure," Williams said with a chuckle. "She's been playing ... for over a year now. I just started. So I'm just really trying to get my bearings and trying to feel out where I am and see where I can go."

The last time Sharapova beat Williams was in 2004.

The last time they played was in the 2016 Australian Open quarterfinals, Sharapova's final appearance before her 15-month drug suspension.

"Well, it's been a while," Sharapova said, "and I think a lot has happened in our lives for the both of us, in very different ways."

Williams was asked about Sharapova's book, which was published last year. It contains quite a bit of material about the American, including a reference to Williams crying in the locker room after losing to Sharapova in the Wimbledon final 14 years ago.

"As a fan, I wanted to read the book and I was really excited for it to come out and I was really happy for her. And then the book was a lot about me. I was surprised about that, to be honest," Williams said. "I was, like, 'Oh, OK, I didn't expect to be reading a book about me—that wasn't necessarily true.'"

Insisting she doesn't "have any negative feelings" toward Sharapova, Williams said "the success of one female should be the inspiration to another."

Seconds later, Williams made reference to Sharapova's "incident of drugs."

There were plenty of other results involving top names at the French Open on Saturday. Other women moving into the fourth round included 2016 champion Garbine Muguruza, two-time runner-up Simona Halep, two-time major title winner Angelique Kerber and reigning U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens. Men's winners included 10-time champion Rafael Nadal, No. 3 Marin Cilic, No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro, No. 6 Kevin Anderson and No. 9 John Isner.

The story of Day 7, though, was what everyone can look forward to on Day 9: Williams vs. Sharapova.

This is Williams' first Grand Slam tournament since January 2017, when she won the Australian Open while pregnant. The American made a brief foray on the tour earlier this season, but she played only four matches.

She had some problems in her initial two outings in Paris, including in the second round, when she dropped the first set against 17th-seeded Ashleigh Barty before — as Williams herself put it—"Serena came out."

Scherzer's pinch hit in 14th helps Nats past Braves

ATLANTA (AP)—Nationals ace Max Scherzer singled as a pinch hitter in the 14th inning and scored the tiebreaking run on Wilmer Difo's triple, sparking Washington to a 5-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Saturday.

In his third big league pinch-hit appearance, Scherzer singled up the middle against Miguel Socolovich (0-1) and sped home from first base on Difo's hit to right-center field. Spencer Kieboom added an RBI single. Scherzer, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, touched off a dugout celebration after he scored.

Justin Miller (2-0) struck out five in three innings, facing the minimum, and Sean Doolittle got three straight outs for his 14th save.

Juan Soto and Michael Taylor homered for Washington. Johan Camargo hit his third home run this week for Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 6, Marlins 2

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt and David Peralta homered, Zack Greinke pitched into the seventh inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Miami Marlins.

Goldschmidt's solo homer in the first inning was his third in eight games, and Peralta connected for his ninth of the season, a two-run shot in the third. The Diamondbacks have won four of five and have hit 14 home runs in their last five games, all at home.

Yankees 8, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Giancarlo Stanton and Miguel Andujar homered to help Masahiro Tanaka win his fifth straight decision, and the New York Yankees extended the Orioles' losing streak to seven games.

Red Sox 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Andrew Benintendi and Christian Vazquez homered during a three-run seventh inning that lifted the Boston Red Sox over the Astros.

Former Cy Young Award winners Justin Verlander and David Price each pitched six innings before handing off to the bullpens.

Dodgers 12, Rockies 4

In Denver, Joc Pederson hit a pair of solo homers, Matt Kemp went deep during an eight-run seventh inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the Colorado Rockies.

Pederson turned in his fifth multihomer game and first since Sept. 10, 2016, at Miami.

Cubs 7, Mets 1, 14 innings

In New York, despite striking out 24 times, the Chicago Cubs beat the Mets when pinch-hitter Javier Baez homered to cap a six-run burst in the 14th inning.

Cubs reliever Luke Farrell (2-2) struck out seven in five scoreless innings.

Brewers 5, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Jhoulys Chacin combined with two relievers on a five-hitter, and the Milwaukee Brewers backed him with four home runs in a victory over the White Sox.

Chacin (4-1) pitched three-hit ball over 5 2/3 innings and the Brewers won for the sixth time in eight games.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 2

In St. Louis, Kolten Wong led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a home run off Richard Rodriguez, giving the Cardinals a win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Austin Meadows had tied the score in the top half with a home run off Bud Norris (2-1).

Royals 5, Athletics 4

In Kansas City, Jorge Soler hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, and the Royals bounced back after wasting a four-run lead to defeat the Oakland Athletics for their third win in four games.

Tim Hill (1-1), a 28-year-old rookie left-hander, allowed Chad Pinder's tying single in the eighth and got his first major league win.

Twins 7, Indians 1

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario hit a two-run homer and Brian Dozier drove in two runs to support Lance Lynn's third straight victory, leading the Minnesota Twins past the Cleveland Indians.

Dozier hit an RBI triple in the third inning against Trevor Bauer (4-4), right before Rosario's 10th homer of the season.

Tigers 7, Blue Jays 4

In Detroit, John Hicks' two-run single in the eighth inning broke open a tie game and the Tigers went on to beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Miguel Cabrera singled off Seunghwan Oh (1-1) with one out in the eighth, and was replaced by pinch-runner Victor Reyes.

Reds 8, Padres 2

In San Diego, rookie left-hander Eric Lauer pitched five strong innings, drove in his first run and picked off Joey Votto to tie for the most in the majors with five, leading the Padres past the Cincinnati Reds.

The 22-year-old Lauer (2-3) won for the first time in five starts.

Giants 2, Phillies 0

In San Francisco, Andrew Suarez combined with two relievers to pitch a three-hitter, lifting the Giants over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Suarez (2-4) shined in his eighth career start, his best by far.

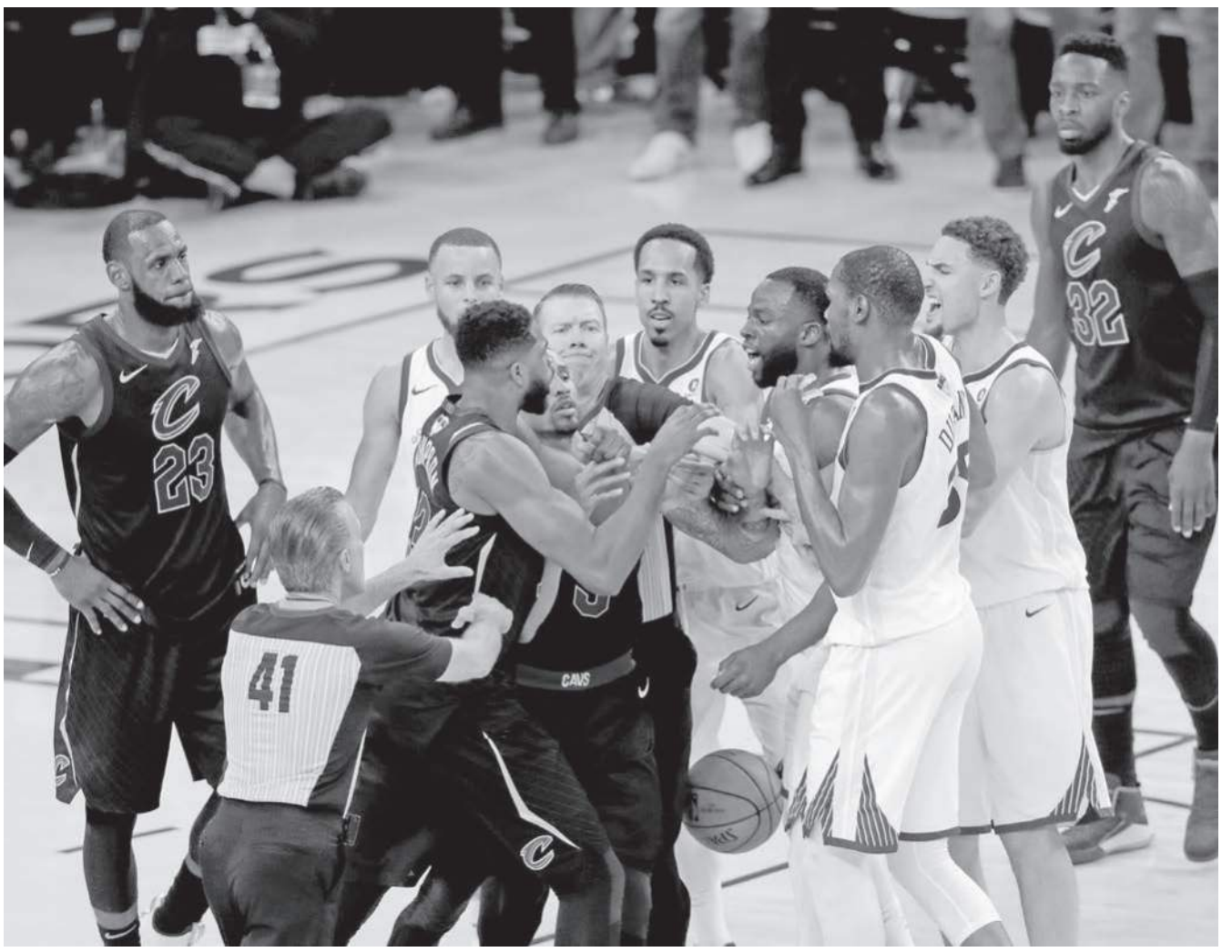
Rangers 3, Angels 2, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Rougned Odor beat a throw home by left fielder Justin Upton on Ronald Guzman's single in the 10th, lifting the Texas Rangers over the Los Angeles Angels.

Mariners3, Rays 1

In Seattle, Marco Gonzales continued his run of excellent starts by pitching into the seventh inning and allowing just one run, and Ryon Healy hit his ninth homer as the Mariners beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

Warriors not expecting LeBron and Co. to lose edge



AP
An official tries to separate Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson and Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during overtime of Game 1 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, May 31, 2018.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—All the chatter is that underdog Cleveland could be completely deflated from the way it flopped in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. Determined and as motivated as ever might be more appropriate and fitting whenever LeBron James is in the mix.

"It's one of the toughest losses I've had in my career," James acknowledged Saturday, "because of everything that kind of went on with the game and the way we played. Obviously, we all know what happened in the game."

There were miscues aplenty, most notably J.R. Smith's offensive rebound in the final seconds of regulation that he dribbled back toward halfcourt in a tie game rather than shooting for a chance to win it -- later insisting he knew the score, though that remains a huge mystery. The decision baffled a frustrated and stunned LeBron, who signaled at his teammate with arms pointed toward the basket.

"The game's over. There's nothing we can do about it," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "We've got to move on, move forward."

James has done so all postseason with an edge, intensity and ability to all-out carry the Cavs—will them to win after win, if you wish.

Yes, with King James on the other side in this familiar June rivalry, Golden State knows much better than to fall into such a trap that the Cavs might be down and out, even if the defending champions have some momentum going into Game 2 on Sunday night back home at Oracle Arena.

The Warriors learned that lasting lesson two years ago, when James led the Cavaliers back from the brink—a daunting 3-1 series deficit—to capture a title in Game 7 on the Warriors' home floor.

"I know it's not the exact same team, but we had them down 3-1 a couple years ago. They might have been deflated, and they came back and won, so we're expecting another great effort from them," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We've been through this too many times. We beat Houston on the road in Game 1 and the narrative was, you know, series is over. It seems to always be that way. There is just overreaction after a game."

Draymond Green didn't sugarcoat it: Golden State got a little lucky to win Game 1 on a night James scored 51 points and the defending champions caught some big breaks.

The Warriors hope to be far better with a chance to take a 2-0 series lead before the series shifts to Northwest Ohio.

"Sometimes you need a little luck. It's good to be lucky sometimes," Green said. "I'll take it."

Kevin Durant wants the Warriors to remove the luck factor going forward. He even nitpicked that offensive board that Smith secured as something he should have done.

"As you try to lock in on the details as much as possible, that luck factor -- good luck, bad luck -- you don't have it creep in if you figure out the detail parts," Durant said. "To be good at those parts of the game, then you don't let the luck creep in."

Golden State gave up 19 offensive boards in all while getting only four.

The Warriors know James is going to score his share of points. They just want to make it harder for him to get good looks, something that is a top priority going into Sunday. James, in his eighth straight NBA Finals and ninth overall, shot 19 for 32 to go with eight assists and eight rebounds in the opener.

"We've got to make them work harder in general," Kerr said. "I thought our defense was subpar the other night."

James said he is taking antibiotics and using eye drops after getting poked in the eye by Green in the first half. The outer area of James' eye was still red Saturday.

Klay Thompson expects to play though is listed as questionable with what he called a sprained left ankle while Andre Iguodala remained doubtful as he works back from a bone bruise in his left knee suffered in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals against Houston and has cost him the last five games.

Cleveland's J.R. Smith slid into Thompson's left leg in the first quarter of the series opener Thursday night. Thompson was dealing with stiffness, swelling and more pain Saturday.

"It is a Finals game, and I'm going to do everything I possibly can to play," Thompson said. "It's something you definitely don't want to have in the NBA championship."

Nor does James want blood in his eye to affect his vision or alter his view of the basket.

So, did he go off for 51 with only one good eye?

"No, I had some points before that already," a good-natured James said, chuckling

After Game 1 gaffe, J.R. Smith seeking a bounce-back effort

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Two days later, there is still no clarity on what J.R. Smith knew when he grabbed that offensive rebound in the final seconds of regulation of Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Not even in Smith's own mind.

"I can't say I was sure of anything at that point," Smith said.

All he and the Cleveland Cavaliers are sure of now is this: They're down 1-0 to the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals, with Game 2 on Sunday night and Smith knowing that he's going to be booed, made fun of, mocked and probably worse by the crowd at Oracle Arena.

Smith became one of the big Game 1 stories for all the wrong reasons . He grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw in the final seconds of regulation with the game tied, then ran toward midcourt as if he was running out the clock and thinking Cleveland had a one-point lead. The Cavaliers wound up losing in overtime.

"He probably took that loss as hard as anybody on the team," Cavs star LeBron James said Saturday. "But one thing about J.R., he has an uncanny ability to bounce back. I think people have seen that throughout our postseason runs, where he hasn't played well or played to his ability that he thinks he should have played, and then the next game he comes on and shoots the ball extremely well."

That bounce-back tendency for Smith will be tested now like perhaps never before. This wasn't just a gaffe. This was a huge gaffe, in the final seconds of the fourth quarter of Game 1 of the NBA Finals with the game on the line. And in the immediate aftermath, it appeared Smith said to James on the court that he thought the Cavs were leading—something he denied afterward.

"I might have said that," Smith said. "Not sure, but I might have."

To say Smith was the reason Cleveland lost Thursday night isn't right, or fair. There's no guarantee that Cleveland would have scored to win the game in those final seconds if Smith had done anything differently.

Still, he was blamed.

"I'm glad it happened to me as opposed to anybody else on my team," Smith said.

Cantlay's ace helps put him among leaders in Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio—Patrick Cantlay didn't manage a hole-in-one through more than three dozen PGA Tour starts before this season. Now he has two.

Cantlay's ace Saturday at the Memorial helped him to a 6-under 66 and left him in a great spot heading into the final day, one shot behind leader Bryson DeChambeau.

He used a 7-iron on the 185-yard, par-3 eighth. The ball landed just short of the pin and plopped in on the second bounce.

"It was perfect," he said.

The 26-year-old former UCLA star got his first ace at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am in February, on the 11th hole at Monterey Peninsula.

Cantlay added an eagle on the 15th Saturday to go along with four birdies.

"I really like the place, I like fast greens, and I like the premium the golf course sets for hitting the ball in the fairway," he said.

He got his first career win in Las Vegas last November.

"After winning the first time, it's kind of like breaking the seal, and now I feel I can go out and get it a bunch," he said. "Get a bunch of wins. I feel like when I get in contention that I know I can seal the deal and play well under pressure and that's what this game's all about."

Meanwhile,Rory McIlroy didn't figure to be in contention at the Memorial, but he showed how much difference a stellar Saturday round can make.

After being mired in the pack with opening rounds of 74 and 70, McIlroy carded an eagle on the par-5 5th hole and added a half-dozen birdies for a 64, the best round of the tournament. Unlike in the first two days, he stayed bogey-free and moved up to with six strokes of the lead.

McIlroy chipped out of a greenside bunker and let the ball break left and roll in on the par-5 fifth. On the 181-yard, par-3 12th, he came inches from an ace.

He said his 90 minutes of range work after Friday's round paid off.

"There was a lot of good stuff," he said. "My wedge play was very good, I drove the ball better, I was more committed to the swings I was trying to make. Then when I did get myself out of position, like I made three good pars on 16, 17 and 18. So it was all there today."

Because more than 78 players made the cut, a 54-hole cut was in play that eliminated eight players. The 54-hole cut was at even-par 216, knocking out Kevin Kisner and Patton Kizzire, among others. Bubba Watson fell out of contention with a 77. Dustin Johnson could only manage a 72. He was eight shots behind, and has played the 12 par 5s in 1 over for the week.

FIFA: North America bid outscores 'high-risk' Morocco

In this Saturday March 17, 2018 file photo, a giant screen display the logo of Morocco 2026 inside of the reception before a press conference to promote Morocco's bib for the 2026 soccer World Cup in Casablanca, Morocco. The North American bid to host the 2026 World Cup has outscored Morocco following inspections with FIFA labeling the North African proposal "high risk" in three areas, it was announced on Friday, June 1. The joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico scored four out of five while Morocco scored 2.7 following FIFA inspections. AP

SWITZERLAND (AP)—FIFA inspectors warned voters deciding the host of the 2026 World Cup that Morocco's plans pose a "high risk" to the tournament due to a lack of infrastructure, while awarding North America's bid a significantly higher score in an evaluation report.

The destination of the soccer showpiece will be decided by up to 207 football nations in a public vote on June 13 that contrasts with the secrecy surrounding previous tainted World Cup decisions.

The report puts pressure on the FIFA Congress to follow the verdicts from inspectors, who marked the joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico as 402 out of 500 and flagged Morocco's proposals on stadiums, accommodation and transport as high risks in a score of 275 out of 500.

The five-man FIFA-appointed task force said it "considers it its duty to emphasize the significant overall risk" of a country needing to build so many key assets, concluding that the bids are "almost opposite ends of the spectrum."

The 2026 World Cup is the first tournament FIFA has confirmed will expand from 32 to 48 teams—putting increasing demands on the stadiums and facilities required to stage 80 games.

"The amount of new infrastructure required for the Morocco 2026 bid to become reality cannot be overstated," the bid evaluation task force said.

No part of North America's proposals was called high risk and FIFA said it "has a clear lead" to advance the governing body's mission to "push new boundaries in terms of sports-related technology and engagement" since stadiums and hotels already exist.

"FIFA (could) focus on a number of exciting initiatives relating to sports science, fan engagement, multimedia interaction and other new forms of digitalization," the report said.

The U.S., which hosted the 1994 World Cup, would host 60 games in 2026, including everything from the quarter-final stage. Mexico, which was the sole host in 1970 and 1986, would have to settle for 10 games, like Canada.

The North Americans scored the only maximum five mark from FIFA for its ticketing and hospitality plans, which helped drive a forecast revenue for the tournament of $14.3 billion, "significantly higher" than Morocco's $7.2 billion.

However, the lowest mark out of five for either bid in each of nine categories is 2.0 for the Americans' projected organizing costs which were driven up by having 16 stadiums instead of the minimum 12.

In 20 categories evaluated for risk, the North American bid had three medium-risk areas—government support, human rights and labor standards, and organizing costs—and 17 low risk.

Morocco had the three high-risk sections, 10 medium risk—also including human rights and labor standards—and seven low risk.

Fiesta Resort to hold Sophia Walk on June 23

Registration is now open for the 19th Annual Sophia Walk set for June 23.

Named after former first lady, Sophia Tenorio, the acronym SOPHIA stands for "Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure." Incorporating a new route for year 19, the course starts at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which happens to be the main sponsor and organizer of the event.

Participants will walk/run from the Fiesta beach north towards Micro Beach, joining the footpath towards Smiling Cove and up to the top of the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and back. The course measures approximately six kilometers and will offer participants a raffle and refreshments plus an award for the "best hat."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the CHCC Volunteers Association. Registration time starts at 6:30am, while the event begins at 7am. Early registration is $10 per person (ages 4 and over) on or before June 22 and increases to $15 per person on race day.

The first 500 participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, donated by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Participants may register at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Century Hotel, and I-Shop. Registration forms can also be picked up at CHCC Gift Shop. Checks can be made payable to CHCC Volunteers Association.

For more information, email sophiawalksaipan@gmail.com or call Fiesta Resort at 234-6412. ***(PR)***

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

vision, Kanoa-1 also had a twice-to-beat and nearly bungled the advantage when they were defeated by sister team Kanoa-2 in Game 1 of the finals, 1-0. The deciding Game 2 was quickly played after Game 1 and Kanoa-2 regrouped and foiled its foe's upset bid after escaping with a 2-1 triumph.

In the co-ed U11 division, TanHoldings did not wait for a deciding Game 2 as it topped Matansa right in the first match, 1-0.

It was the same story for TanHoldings in the boys U15/girls U16 contest with the club shutting down Paire 1 in the finals, 2-0.

TanHoldings also made it to the finals of the co-ed U9 division and was favored in the finals as it had a perfect record in the elimination. However, Matansa overcame TanHoldings' twice-to-beat edge to play a spoiler role in the former's bid for a third division championship in last weekend's tournament.

Matansa, TanHoldings' two champion teams, Kanoa-1, and Shirley's received medals for their fetes, while individual awards were handed to three players, who had the most goals in the short tournament. Siblings Markus (Kanoa-1) and Merrick Toves (Kanoa-2) took the Golden Boot awards in the U13 and U15 age group, while Shirley's Jerlyn Castillo got the same trophy for the girls U16 division.

"I would like to congratulate and commend all of you for playing today. When I came here at 8 in the morning, I expect only a few teams since it's a busy season with a lot of graduation and promotion scheduled this week and last. But, I saw lot of players coming early and getting ready for the games and seeing all of you playing and enjoying the game made me happy," Tan said.

"I've been celebrating my birthday for almost a week, but this part of my birthday is what I look forward every year. I hope to see you next year and the many years to come," added the NMIFA head, who also acknowledged the players' parents for supporting their children in every tournament.

CONTRASTING

From Page 28

umph over the NSA Warriors 2 in the second match.

The NMI Law Rollers stole the win from the Warriors 2 despite failing to hit a single field goal in the first quarter and falling behind majority of the game. The NMI Law Rollers were held to three free throws in the opening quarter to face a 3-7 deficit and was still behind at the break, 8-17, before hanging on to a 29-28 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Ervin Villarin-led squad went on to complete the come-from-behind victory, as they played a balance offense in the fourth canto. Villarin and six other NMI Law Rollers scored in the fourth quarter, while only three hit the board for the Warriors 2 in the payoff period.

Villarin finished with a team-high 14 points, while Joel Norita had 17 on a losing effort for the Warriors 2.

In the first game, the Warrios 1 gained control of the match in the second canto and then pulled away in the third en route to the 36-point victory.

The Warriors were clinging to a 19-18 lead at the end of the first period when Donnie Fejeran dropped 12 of his 19 points in the second to lift his team to a 39-23 advantage at the break.

When the game resumed, it was Henry Aguon's turn to step up, making 8 points and outgunning the entire Titans crew for their commanding 67-30 lead. The Warriors then kept pouncing on the Titans in the fourth quarter to complete the lopsided win.

Five Warriors 1 players scored in twin digits with Aguon adding 17 and Travis Mawelbug, Vince Igitol, and Kekuni Kainoa contributing 14, 13, and 11, respectively.

The boys U18 division of the Diaz caging is on the final stage of the regular season with the playoffs set this Saturday. Only the Top 8 teams out of the 13 will make it to the postseason. The playoffs have a single-elimination format with the title match scheduled on June 13.

First Game

Warriors 1 82 — Fejeran 19, Aguon 17, Mawelbug 14, Igitol 13, Kainoa 11, Magofna 6.

Chinatown Titans 46 — De Jose 16, Alfeche 10, Calayag 6, De Guzman 4, Bautista 4, Ranin 2, Azar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 39-23, 67-30, 82-46.

Second Game

NMI Law Rollers 45 — Villarin 14, Jacinto 7, Agulto 6, Pangelinan 6, Wenio 4, Cruz 4, Indalecio 2, Baleros 2.

Warriors 2 42 — Norita 17, Camacho 10, Falig 7, Garde 4, Jones 4.

Scoring by quarters: 3-7, 8-17, 29-28, 45-42.

CNMI

From Page 28

yesterday with Oceania 2 and the Cook Islands winning over the Solomon Islands, 2-0, and Vanuatu, 2-1, respectively.

The CNMI will kick off its playoff campaign today when it takes on the unbeaten Cook Islands, while the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu collide and hope to bounce back from yesterday's loss. In the other women's division playoffs, Samoa will challenge Oceania 2.

Meanwhile, the CNMI's Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Jimin Woo missed the playoff round in the men's division after placing only third in Group C. Only the Top 2 teams from the four pools moved into the playoffs.

After beating Fiji Development Team last Thursday, the Commonwealth's men's team bowed to Oceania Combined 1 and No. 3 seed Tahiti over the weekend.

Against Oceania 2, Schorr drew first blood when he outclassed Papua New Guinea's Matthew Stubbings, 7-6 (2), 6-2. The Norfolk Islands' Sam Cribb tied the match after slipping past Song, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Oceania 2 went on to steal the win from the CNMI, as the former and Stubbings eked out a 3-6, 6-2, 10-6 over Song and Woo. Versus Tahiti, Schorr and company dropped all three games.

With the Commonwealth players out in the men's playoffs, they will only play in the ranking matches (No. 9 to 14) and will face Tonga today.

Ol'Aces vs 670 Sonics in Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

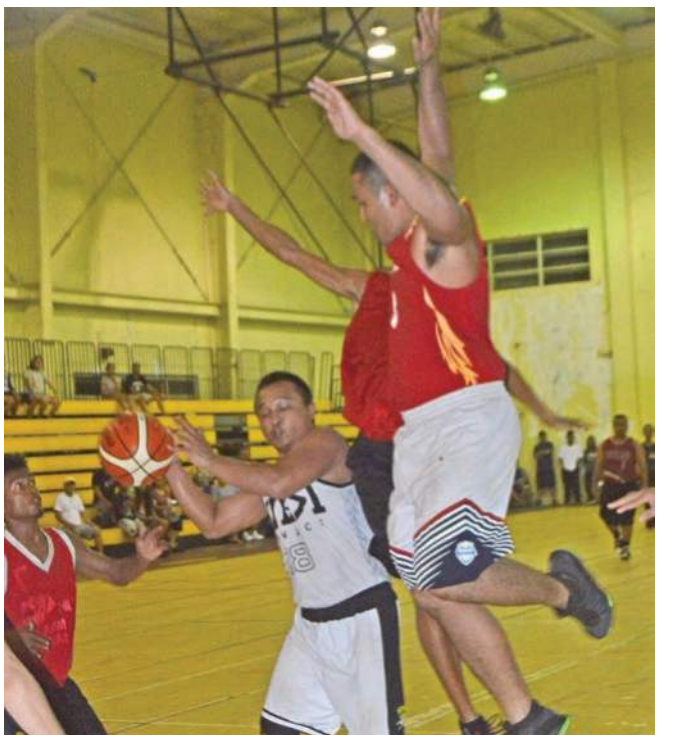
The 670 Sonics' Jack Aranda goes up for an acrobatic shot against the Ol'Aces' Douglas Schmidt during their title game in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 670 Sonics' Sean Rabasto, left, tries to dribble away from the defense of the Ol'Aces' Jeff Deleon Guerrero.

The 670 Sonics' Matt Duenas, right, unloads a bank shot.

The 670 Sonics' Sean Rabasto, left, draws a foul on the Ol'Aces' N-nes Siech.

The 670 Sonics' J.R. Ngeskebei, left, stops and pops up a short jumper in front of the defense of the Ol'Aces' Marvin Rabauliman.



The 670 Sonics' Ernest Duenas, left, fakes off the defense of two Ol'Aces players.

The Ol'Aces' Douglas Schmidt pulls up for a shot in front of the 670 Sonics' Jude Tengco, left, and Ernest Duenas.

The 670 Sonics' J.R. Ngeskebei, second left, and the Ol'Aces' Marvin Rabauliman, third left, battle for the rebound, while their teammates look on.

Get ready for Serena-Sharapova showdown

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Warriors not expecting LeBron and Co. to lose edge

PAGE 25

Shirley's FC leads top finishers in President's Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club took the first title at stake in the 3rd President's Cup held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Shirley's prevailed in the co-ed U13B division, clinching the championship after a 1-0 victory over Kanoa FC in the finals. TanHoldings, Kanoa FC-1, and Matansa followed Shirley's lead and ruled their respective divisions in the annual competition organized by Saipan Soccer School to celebrate the birthday of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan.

Holding a twice-to-beat edge in the finals after earning an unbeaten record in the preliminaries, Shirley's wasted no time in winning the division crown after nosing out Kanoa in Game 1 of the finals.

In the co-ed U13A di-

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan joins winners in the 3rd President's Cup held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

CNMI enters playoffs in Fiji

Contrasting wins for Warriors 1, NMI Rollers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NSA Warriors 1 and NMI Law Rollers earned victories in the boys U18 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League in contrasting fashion last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the curtain-raiser, the Warriors 1 eased past the Chinatown Titans, 82-46, while the NMI Law Rollers pulled off a 45-42 tri-

See CONTRASTING on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Chinatown Titans player attacks the defense of two NSA Warriors 1 defenders during the first half of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga returns to Tonga's Kava Taufa during their pool play game in the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific in Fiji last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Tennis Team was undefeated in the elimination round to move into the playoffs of the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific.

The squad, made up of Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Conatsu Kaga, won its last two games over the weekend to top Group B and make the cut in the women's division. Only the Top 2 teams from the three pools were given playoff berths in the tournament that is hosted by Fiji Tennis Association and features both youth and adult players in the Pacific and Oceania.

The Commonwealth crew completed the sweep in pool play after shutting down Tonga last Saturday, 3-0. Lee handed the No. 2 seed CNMI its first win after routing Pieta Fatai, 6-0, 6-0, while Kaga's straight set victory over Kava Taufa, 6-2, 6-0, secured the early triumph for their team. Lee then teamed up with Isabel Heras in defeating Fatai and Taufa, 6-0, 6-2, to blank Tahiti.

Carol and company earned the same results in their game against American Samoa last Friday. Heras played in the first singles match and clobbered Francine Amoa, 6-0, 6-0, while Lee demolished Florence Wasko in similar scores for the CNMI's outright victory. In the doubles, Lee partnered with Kaga and they also earned an easy win, 6-2, 6-1.

Before crushing American Samoa and Tahiti, the CNMI came from a tough 2-1 victory versus Oceania Women's Combined Team 2, which joined the Commonwealth to the playoff round after finishing pool play with a 2-1 mark.

Also moving into the six-team playoffs were Group A's Samoa (2-0) and Vanuatu (1-1) and Group C's Cook Islands (3-0) and Solomon Islands (2-1).

The playoff round started

See CNMI on Page 26